

*“For they all made us afraid, saying, ‘Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done.’ Now therefore, O **God, Strengthen My Hands.**” Nehemiah 6:9 KJV*

It’s hard to work when afraid. Diligent work requires focus more than ability. The fable of the tortoise and the hare is a good example. The hare was so confident in his own ability he lost focus and thereby the race. I played soccer and ran track and I learned patience and pace win the race. Patience to focus on your own pace and not be distracted by the flashy starters and keep a steady rhythm the entire race saving the flash for the end. On our soccer team we were required to run a mile a day, four laps of the quarter mile track, and at least once a week it had to be five minutes or less. I always ended my daily run with a sprint of the last 200 yards. Coach Hathaway would grin and shake his head as I consistently finished under five minutes by a half second or so. It was no easy task, because it required constant practice. Each day after soccer I would run three miles just to stay ready. Satan knows faith requires the DILIGENT seeker and uses everything in his power to distract us from God’s Word, and his minefield is always in our thoughts, waiting for a misstep! You ever notice when you start trying to read, study, or meditate in God’s Word, how your thoughts run true to a point and then just a small rabbit trail will develop and before you know it, BAM! You’re thoughts are nowhere near God’s Word! Satan will always use good to distract you from God’s Best! You can’t finish a race if you never start it or run the prescribed course, and there is only one course to Heaven! There are many who only seek their own pleasure who will incessantly mock and jeer your determination to follow Christ, and it is in those times we must cry with Nehemiah, *“God, strengthen my hands!”* Faith is our shield against satanic distraction. A man with a shield fights ten times more effectively than a man without one. God’s Word directing our thoughts is the reward of the DILIGENT seeker! *“Thy Word have I hid in mine heart (thoughts) that I might not sin against Thee. He that cometh to God MUST believe that He is, AND that HE is a Rewarder of them that DILIGENTLY seek Him.”* There’s a difference in believing ABOUT God and believing IN God! I can believe ABOUT the laws of aerodynamics, but until I jump from 10,000 feet with a parachute, I’ve not believed IN them!



The thoughts directing working hands,
Must focus on the job that’s planned,
Else when the finish comes at last,
All hope of winning will be past. –CGP

God will strengthen YOUR hands for HIS Work with HIS Word! We must make sure our endeavors are by, with, and through obedience to His Word else Satan can easily destroy our thought paths and thereby our course. If you want God to strengthen your hands, make sure it’s HIS Work you are doing. If you don’t know what that is, read His Word and obey it! Faith is the essence of pleasing God! Obedience is the evidence of faith and faith is the evidence of the unseen God!

“My soul melteth for heaviness: STRENGTHEN Thou me according unto THY WORD.” Psalms 119:28 KJV