



Connecting With God For a Strong Finish

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CHAPTER 3 Antifragile Strength

Once we connect with Jesus, the Holy Spirit escorts us beyond the comfort zone of religious mediocrity. He leads us into hostile territory, with a commission to change the spiritual climate. Rather than reflecting our surroundings, we radiate light and release energy. Rather than dabbling in superficial religion, we activate supernatural resources to liberate captives ravaged by spiritual darkness.

Let the Wind Blow

Candles are fragile, especially when wind blows against them. Bonfires are more robust—they benefit from wind. Each gust fans their flames to burn hotter, brighter, and higher. According to Nassim Taleb, bonfire are “antifragile” because when exposed to wind they grow stronger instead of weaker.¹

In outer space, stars consume massive amounts of Hydrogen gas (technically, they fuse it into helium). Our Sun burns 700 million tons of hydrogen each second. Fueled by enormous gusts of hydrogen, stars demonstrate extreme antifragility—potentially for billions of years.

The word spirit literally means wind or breath, from the Hebrew word *ruwach* or the Greek word *pneuma*. As we connect with Jesus, the Holy Spirit inspires us to shine with antifragile tendencies. The word inspire means to breath in or to inhale.

Winds of adversity strengthen spirit-filled believers. They convert chaos into booster fuel and commotion into ignition power. The harder life gets, the more enriched their union with Jesus becomes. Persecution and tribulation accelerate their faith propelling them closer to Christ and to their eternal destiny.

¹ Nassim Nicholas Taleb, *Antifragile: Things That Gain From Disorder*, Random House United States and Penguin United Kingdom, 2012.

When adversity poses a threat, overcomers run boldly to the sound of its rancor. Under God's authority, they mount an aggressive counter-attack. Like anti-fragile stars, overcomers cause demons to flee and God's will to prevail. Their light dispels diabolical darkness.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
(James 4:7 NIV)

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.... (1 Peter 5:8-9 NIV)

Connecting with Christ Jesus transforms casual observers into dynamic luminaries. Instead of playing it safe from behind the pew, stars venture into domains of spiritual darkness to perform mighty exploits. After connecting with the truth, religious spectators abandon complacent inhibitions. When disaster strikes, they become intrepid activists drawing antifragile strength from Almighty God. When tribulation, persecution, and judgment shake the nations, God's people impart strength, inspire courage, and convey comfort. Knowing the truth about God tames every fear except the fear of the Lord.

We Need God's Strength to do the Impossible

Knowing the truth about our Heavenly Father allows fragile humans to embrace their antifragile potential. If we are going to live abundantly, love passionately, and influence effectively then we need to access stellar power directly from the Holy Spirit.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8 ESV)

Following Jesus carries an extraordinary responsibility—a great commission to help connect every person in every people group with Christ. His love burns with unquenchable passion for those yet to know the truth about Him. We need God's strength to accomplish this seemingly impossible assignment, and we need His courage to perform greater works than He did.

*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me [Jesus], the works that I do he will do also; and **greater works** than these he will do, because I go to My Father.* (John 14:12 NKJ)

Since rising from the dead and ascending into heaven, Jesus has not allowed one moment to pass with casual indifference. After suffering brutal beatings and

excruciating pain on the cross for our sake, Jesus refuses to let apathy interfere with the future. Nonchalance does not suit His passionate profile.

Jesus will not relinquish anyone to Satan's deadly agenda without mustering the fiercest possible opposition. He will not surrender a single soul to hell without doing His utmost to save them. Almighty God has declared war on anyone seeking to separate Him from those He seeks to save.

Every person remains a legitimate target for God's love. Anyone that interferes with this mission becomes a target for steadfast intervention. To this end, the Holy Spirit empowers each of us to radiate a life-giving message. Deployed as vital lifelines, we wrap God's love around every person willing to receive it. Our target consists of anyone with the potential to say yes to Jesus. Where the Holy Spirit leads, antifragile strength follows; detached feebleness is not an option.

We need God's strength to go where Jesus wants us to go. We need His courage to remain there until He says and does everything He wants to say and do through us. Knowing God and co-laboring with Him authorizes us to go and do His will. As daunting as this mission may appear, our assignment comes with the promise that *"nothing is impossible with God."*² Our Heavenly Father, *"is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."*³

**Attempt something so fantastic
That unless God is in it,
It is destined for failure**

John Mason

"Don't Wait for Your Ship to Come In...Swim Out to Meet It"

Tulsa, Honor Books, 1994, p. 149

Jesus commanded His disciples:

"Go and make disciples of all nations"

Matthew 28:19 NIV

² Luke 1:37 NIV

³ Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJ

*“For truly, I say to you, **if you have faith** like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and **nothing will be impossible for you.**” (Matthew 17:20 ESV)*

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