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## Strengthen Pt 2 Those who strengthen themselves against God

This is our second teaching on the word– strengthen. In our first study we established three points– (i) God strengthens His children because He is with them, (ii) when we cry unto the Lord He strengthens with strength in our soul, (iii) wait on the Lord, be of good courage and He will strengthen your heart. In this study we establish– (i) Men in David’s time strengthened themselves, (ii) those that love evil more than good strengthen themselves in their own wickedness, (iii) a wicked man strengthens himself against the Almighty.

It is from our search of the scripture that we establish our three points–

### 1. Men in David’s time strengthened themselves

“These also are the chief of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, and with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the Lord concerning Israel” (1 Chr.11: 10).

### 2. Those that love evil more than good strengthens themselves in their own wickedness

“Thou lovest evil more than good; [and] lying rather than to speak righteousness. [7] Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness” (Ps.52: 3, 7).

### 3. A wicked man strengthens himself against the Almighty

“The wicked man travaileth with pain all [his] days, and the number of years is hidden to the oppressor. [25] For he stretcheth out his hand against God, and strengtheneth himself against the Almighty” (Job 15:20, 25).

When we strengthen ourselves against God we are seen to Fight not against Him “But if it be of God, ye can not overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God” (Acts 5:39). See also Acts 23:9

#### Illustration

When a person perverts the gospel of Christ–crucified they are accursed of God (Gal.1: 8, 9) because the hearers are unable to believe and receive the glorious gospel that has the power to save a man. The lost man is unable to return from his wicked way with the preaching of the kingdom of heaven, or the gospel that the Mormons preach– therefore they inadvertently strengthen the hands of the wicked.

#### Question of the scriptures

When do God’s children strengthen themselves against Him today?

#### Answer from the scriptures

Today we can strengthen our hand against God when–

\* We lie to the Holy Ghost– Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

\* We resist the Holy Ghost – Acts 7:51– “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye”.

\* We quench the Spirit– 1Thes 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

\* we do evil unto God’s labourers– “Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works” (2 Tim.4: 14).

Let us never strengthen our hands against God, His Son, nor quench, resist nor lie to the Holy Spirit, lest we be seen to fight against God. And let us rebuke those who strengthen themselves against Him, the work and all that is truth. Amen!