What does it mean to rely on God's strength?

The strength of the self-sufficient man may lead to rebellion against God. The Lexham Theological Wordbook states, "God is the main source of strength, with people being strong either for or against the Lord, his people, or his ways…. Strength occurs in a broad range of contexts and subjects, being used both positively and negatively…"

Spiritual strength comes from God (Ps 138:3).

The psalmist wrote:

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses;

But we will remember the name of the Lord our God (Ps 20:7, NKJV).

Strength is dissipated by: iniquity (Ps 31:10), hunger (1 Sa 28:20, 22), sexual looseness (Pr 31:3), age (Ps 71:9) and visions (Da 10:8, 16, 17);[1] but increased from: God (Is 41:10), Christ (2 Ti 4:17), the Spirit (Eph 3:16), brethren (Lk 22:32) and by: wisdom (Eccl 7:19) waiting on the Lord (Is 40:31) and his grace (2 Co 12:9).[2]

Those who possess strength (Jb 9:4) and fear the Lord (Jb 41:25) are men of valor (1 Chr 7:9–11).

Relying on God is more than knowing what is right (Ro 2:17-20)—it is doing right (Ro 2:21-29) and having one's heart aligned with God (Ro 2:25-29).[3] In God's strength one moves from glory to glory (2 Co 3:18).

The child of God need only to ask the Lord for his strength (Mt 21:22, 2 Chr 14:11) and an infilling of his Spirit (Jn 5:14-15, Ro 5:5); then, rest in him (Mt 11:28-30). The apostle Paul wrote, "For when I am weak, then I am strong (2 Co 12:10)." In God's strength the believer presses on (Phil 3:14).

The prophet Isaiah wrote: "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint (Is 40:31)."

Christians must be strong and of good courage (Deut 31:6) putting all faith, hope and love in the Lord (1 Co 13:13).

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[1] Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 595). Thomas Nelson Publishers.

[2] Ibid, p. 595

[3] Willmington, H. L. (1999). The Outline Bible (Ro 2:17–29). Tyndale House Publishers.