

The Secret of Strength

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction:

A. Text: Jeremiah 30-31.

B. This section could be called the song or dream of Jeremiah expressing hope in the midst of great trial.

II. Great certainties.

A. The certainty of joy. The promise of restoration is given at the lowest time of the nation's life.

B. The agony of distress.

1. God takes full responsibility for what happened to Israel.

2. He says it is because of their sins.

3. God deals with everybody this way. (Galatians 6)

4. There is recompense for the sins of the spirit we have now.

C. The faithfulness of love.

1. God is tender towards His people.

2. God's everlasting love refers to the vanishing--He loves us despite having knowledge of our every sin.

D. God would restore the people through a new process.

1. God is changing the humans by putting a new motive within--love.

2. On the basis of love, God asks for obedience. Love fulfills the law.

3. God Himself becomes the power to act.

4. God brings the believer into His family.

5. God promises to remember sins no more.

6. God has made a new covenant with anyone that will stop trying to rely on himself. (Romans 11)

Application questions:

1. Why do you think God brings people to the breaking point before giving the promise of restoration?

2. Why is self-reliance bad in God's point of view?

3. How have you learned to depend on God more in your life? What are some activities can you partake in that will stretch your faith and need for God on a daily basis?
