

Isaiah 35:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

Analysis

The command to "strengthen" weak hands and "confirm" feeble knees shifts to direct exhortation. This pastoral language addresses spiritual discouragement, using physical metaphors for spiritual weakness. Hebrews 12:12 quotes this verse in context of persevering faith. The imperative mood shows that believers have responsibility to encourage one another, not merely wait passively for God's intervention. Strengthening weak believers is part of the church's mutual ministry.

Historical Context

Written during Assyrian threats, this exhortation encouraged faithfulness despite overwhelming circumstances. The weak and fearful needed strengthening for the trials ahead.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Who in your community needs spiritual strengthening and encouragement today?

2. How does remembering God's promises provide strength for present struggles?
3. What role does the church play in strengthening weak believers?

Interlinear Text

וְחִזְקוּ	יְדֵי	כַּף	וְכַרְכֵּי	כַּשְׁלֵי	וְאִמְצוּ
Strengthen	hands	ye the weak	knees	the feeble	and confirm
H2388	H3027	H7504	H1290	H3782	H553

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 12:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

Luke 22:32 (Parallel theme): But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Acts 18:23 (Parallel theme): And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

Job 16:5 (Parallel theme): But I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of my lips should assuage your grief.

Luke 22:43 (Parallel theme): And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

Judges 7:11 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that were in the host.