

Strengthening the Hands of the *Wicked*





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- **Ezekiel 13:22** “Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way to save his life.”
- **Jeremiah 23:14** “Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem. They commit adultery and walk in lies. They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns back from his wickedness. All of them are like Sodom to me, and her inhabitants like Gomorrah.”



Strengthening the Hands of the Wicked



- *By Participating Directly in the Sin*

– **Acts 5:1-11** – Ananias and Sapphira

– Mob Psychology: “Everyone’s Doing It!”

Exodus 23:2

– **Proverbs 1:10-19**



Strengthening the Hands of the Wicked

- *By Endorsing False Doctrine and False Teachers*
 - “I do not teach this, but I have a friend who does...”
 - Divorce and Remarriage, **Matthew 19:9**
 - “Guilty Put Away Fornicator Can Remarry”
 - “Baptism Washes Away Wives”
 - “Divorce and Remarriage for Any Cause”





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- *By Endorsing False Doctrine and False Teachers*

– The Plan of Salvation

- I have a dear friend who is pastor of a Pentecostal Church. A while back he confessed: "Rubel, time was that I would not have considered you my brother in Christ because of the way you were baptized. My church took Acts 2:38 to be a 'pattern' requiring us to say 'in the name of Jesus Christ' as a formula. And because you were baptized 'in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit,' I could not honor your baptism."





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- Here's what I told him: "Dear Brother, I felt exactly the same way about you. Because of how I was taught to interpret Acts 2:38, I would not have considered you my brother in Christ. I can certainly forgive your arrogance, if you will forgive my arrogance in judging you!"





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- I believe in baptism. Jesus was baptized. The Bible teaches baptism. I just don't believe that baptism saves. I believe that Jesus Christ saves. And baptism is one of those ways we celebrate our salvation. It's really the initial step of the faithful believer.
- When I see someone calling God Father and Jesus Savior, I meet a brother or a sister regardless of the name of their church or denomination.



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- *By Endorsing False Doctrine and False Teachers*
 - Ahab to Ben-Hadad: “You are my brother!” **1 Kgs. 20:32**
 - *“So they wore sackcloth around their waists and put robes around their hands, and came to the king of Israel and said, ‘Your servant Ben-Hadad says, ‘Please let me live.’ And he said, ‘Is he still alive? He is my brother.’”*
 - **Ephesians 5:11**
 - **2 John 9-11**
 - **2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (Isaiah 52:11)**



Strengthening the Hands of the Wicked

• *By Lending Support To Sinful Deeds*

– **Acts 7:58; 22:20**

– **Edom: Obadiah vss. 10-15**

– We don't drink BUT we defend it

– We don't tell dirty jokes BUT we laugh at them

– We don't buy X-Rated materials BUT we look at them

– We don't offer a bet BUT we ante-up



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- *By Failing to Confront Sin and the Sinner*
 - **Isaiah 58:1; Ezekiel 3:17-21**
 - **Acts 20:26-27; 2 Thess. 3:6; 1 Tim. 5:20**
 - “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men fail to act” (Edmund Burke)



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Stand Boldly For God

&

Call All Men To His Truth

Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess,
Be Baptized, Stay Faithful

Acts 2:38; Rev. 2:10

