

What Gabriel's name means to me:

"The Lord said to me 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore ... when I am weak then I am strong." II Cor. 12:9-10

"We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." II Cor. 4:7

"My flesh and my heart they may fail, but God is the strength of my heart." Psalm 73:26

"I will trust and not be afraid: for the Lord is my strength and my song ..." Isaiah 12:2
& Psalm 118:14

"They that wait for the Lord will renew their strength ..." Isaiah 40:31

"Gabriel said to me, 'I have come to give you insight and understanding. As soon as you began to pray an answer was given... therefore consider the message ...'" Daniel 9:21

Also Luke 1:11-20, 26-38

The name Gabriel means "God's strong one".

The angel Gabriel acted as God's messenger of hope, and encouragement to have faith even in difficult times/hardship. He seems to me an embodiment of strength, wisdom and submission to God. Strange that we are so often uneasy with God's messages and with "submission to God". Is it because we don't trust Him, or because it threatens our need to 'make our own decisions', or because we perceive submission as weakness? But who better for us to trust? God created and gave us our brains, presumably with the intention that we use them; not just 'brainlessly' follow Him but intelligently recognize that He has so much wisdom and help to offer us. In fact submission is the true strength of faith.

Lord, let Gabriel's name remind me to have faith strong enough to accept both the rainstorm and the rainbow.