

There is an Enemy

Read: Ephesians 6:10-20

Main idea: There is a spiritual war raging between the powers of darkness and the Kingdom of God that affects every part of our lives, but our hope is not in our ability to overcome, rather in the knowledge that God is already victorious through the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Key Verse: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (6:12 ESV)

Key Principles:

- We wake up every day in the midst of a spiritual war between the powers of darkness and the kingdom of God.
- We are tempted everyday to give into the desires of our flesh and the influence of the darkness, but God calls us to draw close to Him.
- We must put on the armor of God to protect ourselves from the onslaught of the enemy.
- God has not called us to run from the enemy or to run to the enemy. Instead, He calls us to stand firm against the enemy.
- Our victory comes from the power of God and our willingness to be dependent upon Him.
- We must not neglect the spiritual disciplines that God has provided for us as resources to equip us for the daily battle against the enemy.

Discussion:

1. Do you show for up battle every day in your faith walk? I what ways?
2. Do you prepare yourself for spiritual warfare by spending time in the Word of God and in prayer so that you're ready to face whatever the enemy tries to throw at you? How does the enemy show up in our lives?
3. Which piece of the armor of God is the easiest for you to remember to use? Why?
4. Which piece of the armor of God do you sometimes fail to put on? Why?
5. Do you pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ when you consider spiritual warfare? How might you support them in other ways?
6. How might this passage affect the way you share the gospel with others?

Prayer:

- Focus on living for God in a dark, sinful world.
- Pray:
 - That God would remind you to be dependent upon Him in a spiritual war.
 - That God would help us to have courage and be equipped for the battle everyday.
 - That God would help us to consider others when we face the difficulties of life.

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- I. Show up to the war. 6:10-12**
 - 1. You must stand against the enemy. 6:10-11
 - 2. You must understand the enemy. 6:12

- II. Suit up for the war. 6:13-17**
 - 1. Put on the belt of truth. 6:14
 - 2. Put on the breastplate of righteousness. 6:14
 - 3. Put on the shoes of peace. 6:15
 - 4. Put on the shield of faith. 6:16
 - 5. Put on the helmet of salvation. 6:17
 - 6. Take up the sword of the Spirit. 6:17

- III. Speak up in the war. 6:18-20**
 - 1. Call out to your Father. 6:18
 - 2. Call out for your family. 6:19-20

NEXT WEEK:
How Can I Make the Most of My Life? Part I
Ephesians 2:1-10