

April 6/25 – Small Group Questions - Ephesians 6:10-24 “Standing Firm”

Read Ephesians 6:10-24

Paul opens this last section of his letter to the Ephesians with the word finally, which in original language meant henceforth. What he’s saying is, that as we live out the new humanity we have in Christ this will be the ongoing reality for the follower of Jesus – we will find ourselves entering into a battle with unseen forces (Satan, the devil, the demonic) that are hell bent on undermining the new humanity in us.

1. How do you personally make sense of the language of Satan and the demonic in the biblical record?
2. The primary scheme (vs. 11) of the Devil is contained in the name – devil meaning liar or deceiver, Satan meaning accuser. The central work of the evil one is to use all means necessary to undermine the truth, the truth about ourselves, the truth about Jesus. Discuss.
3. In the Christian life there are two truths that are meant to be held in dynamic tension. The holiness and the grace of God. His holiness brings us to see that we are far worse off than we had imagined, in his grace we see that we are far more loved than we could have dared dream. The primary lies of the enemy are to disrupt that dynamic tension. Those lies are temptation and accusation. In temptation the enemy diminishes the holiness of God and up plays his grace resulting in an elevated view of ourselves that leads us to do and think things that unravel us. In accusation the enemy diminishes the grace of God and up plays his holiness resulting in a diminished view of ourselves that leads us to do and think things that unravel us. Discuss.
4. (vs. 10) What does this verse tell us about our inability in this, and God’s ability?
5. (vs. 14-17a) What truths are we meant to “put on” to combat the lies of the enemy? Give some examples of what this might look like.

Read Matthew 4:1-11

6. (17b-18) In reflection on the pattern of Jesus in the desert what does it mean to use the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God and pray in the Spirit (prayer consistent with the word of God) to combat the lies of the enemy?
7. We are encouraged to be strong and to put on the armour so that we might stand. What would this standing look like practically?

Resources for putting on the armour:

1. <https://www.navigators.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/navigators-armor-of-god-updated-2024.pdf>
2. <https://storage.snappages.site/QJWDMK/assets/files/Who-I-Am-In-Christ.pdf>
3. <https://thecove.org/blog/the-full-armor-of-god-how-to-pray/>