

enemy plants doubt and lies about you. Your salvation is your assurance of who you are – a child of God. *Share the story of your salvation briefly with your group.*

Sword of the Spirit (God's Word) – God's "word" referred to in this verse is the *rhēma* or spoken word of God. After his baptism, Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. Each time Satan challenged Him, Jesus spoke God's word in response. It was the spoken word of God that Jesus used to defend against Satan's attack. Jesus not only knew the words, He understood the meaning of God's word. Satan misquoted scripture, but in a way that its meaning was twisted. *When you study God's Word, what are the sources you use to give you insight and understanding?*

Ephesians 6:18 NLT - 18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

The Final Weapon- Prayer – Prayer is our lifeline, our direct connection to God. It is not a wish list to recite in hopes that God will fulfil our requests, it is communing and communicating with our Father. It is speaking our hearts and listening for His in replay. In prayer, we allow God to touch us and transform us. *The enemy will do his best to discourage and throw us off course. Set aside times throughout your day to "check in" with God so that you will remain in step with the Spirit.*

WRAP-UP

Jesus ensured our victory on the cross, but the battle for your soul is fought in the everyday moments of your life. There is an enemy, the devil, who is out to destroy you. But God has provided armor that we can use to keep us from falling. Put on the whole armor and live victoriously.

MEMORY VERSE.

Ephesians 6:10 NLT - 10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life

Challenge.- During this sermon series we are encouraging you to memorize our passage from Ephesians 6:10-17. Begin with verse 10 this week and take time to reflect on its meaning in your life.

"The Battle for Your Soul" **Every Day Holy- #1**

INTRODUCTION

On that first Easter morning Jesus rose from the dead. And for forty days He appeared to many before He ascended to heaven and was seated on the right hand of the Father. Then his followers must have asked the question, "Now what do we do?" They had been commanded to make disciples, but they also returned to living their everyday lives. The difference was that Jesus was gone, and they would be facing an enemy intent on their destruction. They were entering a battle for their soul.

Ice Breaker

On your first day home after a long trip or vacation, what is the first task you tackle?

Key Passage

Ephesians 6:10-11 NLT - 10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The Devil

Ephesians 6:12 NLT - 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

In the letter to the Ephesians Paul encouraged the believers in Ephesus as they lived out their daily lives as "the church" and "the body of Christ". He urges them to "Live a life filled with love, following the example of

Christ...” (Eph 5:2) But Paul also warns them that they will meet with opposition to leading a Godly life.

In Ephesians 6:11 Paul mentions the strategies of the devil. When you read about “the devil” what images come to mind? How does Paul characterize our “enemy” in verse 12?

In the modern westernized mind, we may stumble at even acknowledging that there is a devil. Our culture has categorized Satan along with the tooth fairy and the Easter Bunny, albeit on the dark side. But Jesus certainly believed that the devil was real.

John 8:44 NLT - 44 For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

What characteristics of the devil does Jesus describe in John 8:44? How did we see each of these in the garden of Eden during his encounter with Adam and Eve?

Sometimes we forget that believing in God means believing in the supernatural; because God is spirit and exists beyond our natural world. But the bible describes a spiritual reality that exists even though we don't see it with our eyes. And we have a spiritual enemy who is intent on destroying us if we are not vigilant.

2. The Battle

1 Peter 5:8 NLT - 8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Peter tells us the devil is looking for those he can swallow up and destroy. We are not at war over territory, wealth, or power. This battle is for the souls of God's children. And while this can happen in the epic moments of your life (loss of a loved one, disaster or failures), Satan also whittles away in the mundane moments (everyday irritations, disappointments, or temptations).

When have you faced your greatest spiritual battles? What would you say are some of the common moments you find your resistance is tested?

3. Armor Up

Ephesians 6:13-17 NLT - 13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. 15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. 16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

The first thing we find is that we must use every tool at our disposal to prepare for resisting the enemy. In this passage, Paul details six different pieces of armor. The first five are defensive. That tells us the attacks will come from many directions, but when we have successfully resisted, our final weapons are offensive ones.

Belt of Truth- It seems to be getting more difficult to identify truth these days. Jesus said, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” Our source of truth and freedom from the enemies lies comes from abiding in God's word. *How do you abide in God's Word?*

Breastplate of Righteousness- 2 Cor 5:21 tells us Christ took on our sin so that we could take on His righteousness. Only in the righteousness of Jesus are we able to approach a Holy God. Only through the cross do we have access to a relationship with God and life eternal. *Pause for a moment of thanksgiving for the precious gift Jesus gave us on the cross.*

Shoes of the Gospel of Peace- In a world of war and unrest what could be better news than the prospect of peace? We carry that news as we proclaim that God has made a way for our relationship with Him to be restored. Romans 5:10 says that while we were still God's enemies, He reconciled us through Christ's death. Further on in his letter to the Roman church, Paul explains how we are to love one another and do all that we can to live in peace. *What is one thing you can do to promote peace with others in your live who might otherwise be in conflict with you?*

Shield of Faith – The devil will continue to send his “flaming arrows” our way. It is our faith in Jesus that protects us from falling victim to those attacks. *What are some of the kinds of attacks you've see Satan using and how would faith in Jesus counter those attacks?*

Helmet of Salvation- A helmet protects your head and that is where the