

Sermon Title: Fully Alive- Standing Firm

Sermon Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-18



Sermon Discussion Guide (7/19)

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture

Read Ephesians 6:10-18 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation

Where does our strength and armor come from? What is the significance of this strength and armor not being something that we create or generate ourselves?

What do you notice about the words used to describe the armor of God in verses 14-17? Are there any themes or types of words that are repeated multiple times? If you had to summarize verses 14-17 in one sentence, what would you say?

Why do you think Paul concludes this section about the armor of God with the call to pray in verse 18? How is the practice of prayer related to putting on the armor of the previous verses?

Read John 10:10 (You may also choose to read John 15:1-8.) What are the implications of this Scripture for our understanding of how we find an abundant or full life? What does this Scripture reveal to us about the importance of abiding in Christ?

Application

Strength Isn't Found in Trying Harder. It's Found in Leaning Deeper into Jesus. In your life, what does it look like in practical terms for you to "try harder" to live out your Christian faith? What does it look like in practical terms for you to "lean deeper into Jesus" as you live out your Christian faith? What differences do you notice between these two postures of living?

Pastor Kenny said that the 3 main realities revealed in the spiritual armor are: a) Christians are a people who Stand in His Truth b) Christians are a people who Stand in His Identity c) Christians are a people who Stand with His Confidence. Which of these three realities is the easiest for you to embrace and live out in your daily life? Which of these three realities is the most challenging for you to embrace and live out in your daily life? Why do you think this is?

What does your prayer life currently look like? How might understanding that prayer is the battle (rather than just preparation for the battle) change your approach to prayer? Are there any changes God is calling you to make to your prayer life so that you can more fully abide in Him?

This is the last Sunday of the sermon series "Fully Alive" where we have sought to break the lies of sin, silence the voice of shame, destroy the pride that leads away from God, and to stand firm in the abundant life found in Christ. What is the one main thing God has spoken to you over these past 4 weeks? How will you respond to what God is speaking to you so that you can become fully alive?

Prayer

God, we thank You that You have come so that we can be fully alive. We confess that we so often try to find peace, joy, and true life through our own striving and through our own strength. Remind us once again whose we are. Draw us closer to Yourself. Lead us into a deeper life of prayer and a deeper life of abiding in You. Work within our lives so that we stand firm in the midst of temptation, not because of our own strength but because of Your strength that flows through us. Amen.