

KEY SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NLT)

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 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.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

START TALKING

Pastor Dave's message concluded with the subject of prayer. What is your favorite prayer experience? Don't share something you heard about, but something that you have experienced.

START DISCUSSING

Read Ephesians 6:10-18

Be Strong v10-11

Notice that each verse has two phrases. V10 is "be strong" then "his might." V11 is "the armor" then "able to stand"

What do these two verses teach us about...

what it means to be strong? how to be strong? why we need to be strong?

THE BATTLE

Verses 12 address our battle.

Who is our battle not against? What difference does that make? Who is our battle against? What difference does that make?

THE ARMOR

Verses 13-17 is one of the most well know passages in the Bible.

Take some time to discuss the truth connected to each component.

How does each contribute to our ability to stand firm?

Belt - having girded your loins with truth

Breastplate - having put on the breastplate of righteousness

Shoes - having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of

Shield - taking up the shield of faith

Helmet - take the helmet of salvation

Sword - the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

PRAYER

What is the significance of putting on the armor and then praying? Why is meant by the phrase "we don't march into battle, we kneel"? Discuss some of the challenges of prayer.

Read Colossians 4:12-13 and discuss Epaphras being described as one who "prays hard" or "labors earnestly in prayer" How can we do a better job praying?