

Jason Huffman
Ephesians 6:10-13
Our Spiritual Reality
9/1/24

Leader Guide

Sermon Recap

In this message, Pastor Jason discusses our spiritual reality as outlined in Ephesians, emphasizing that we are engaged in a spiritual battle. He highlights that while evil days are inevitable, the goal for Christians is to stand firm against challenges with strength that comes solely from God. Ultimately, while we face a crafty adversary, our battle is not with people but against spiritual forces, and we prevail by partnering with Christ to bring others into His light.

Discussion Questions

What does it mean to be strong in the Lord, and how can we rely on His strength during tough times?

- Pastor Jason talked about how our own strength is not enough and how we need to be strong in the Lord.
- Can you think of a time when you tried to handle a situation while not being well connected to the Lord? Would things have been different if you were walking more closely with God?

In what ways do you think the evil days mentioned in Scripture manifest in our everyday lives?

- Pastor Jason mentioned that evil days are a reality, and Scripture teaches we will have tribulation, persecution, and temptation.
- How do you usually react when you face challenges or hardships? Do you see these as opportunities or setbacks?

Pastor Jason mentioned our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces. What does this mean for how we treat others?

- The message highlighted our fight is spiritual and that Satan uses people to carry out his plans.
- How can you apply this perspective in your relationships, especially with people you may disagree with or find difficult?

How can understanding the nature of the devil as crafty and malicious help us to better prepare for spiritual battles?

- Jason described the devil as crafty and shrewd, emphasizing the importance of being aware of his tactics.
- Can you identify any specific areas in your life where you need to be more vigilant against distractions or temptations?

What role does obedience to God play in maintaining a strong connection with Him, according to the sermon?

- Pastor explained that spiritual strength comes from a connection with God, which is maintained through obedience.
- What is one practical step you can take this week to strengthen your relationship with God and stay connected to His power?

Prayer Prompts

- Pray for the ability to recognize the spiritual battles in your life this week.
- Ask God for strength to resist temptation and endure trials.
- Invite God to lead you in applying the truths from the sermon to your daily life.

Teaching Notes:

Big Idea: we are spiritual beings in the midst of a spiritual battle.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness 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.

1. Evil days are a reality.

- Jesus promised tribulation,
- Jesus was tempted by the devil
- Jesus endured persecution.

2. Standing is the goal.

3. What we need is not ours.

Judges 16:19 Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. 20 And she said, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!” So he awoke from his sleep, and said, “I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!” But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Acts 3:16 And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

11“...that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

4. The devil is crafty & malicious.

He is not God’s equal, but one of God’s creations.

Ephesians 2:1And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Satan takes advantage of rebellious sinners.

...and sin opens the door for Satan’s work.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Satan goes around studying people & looking for an opening, a moment, a place to attack.

5. We don't fight people.

1 John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

5 Day Devotional:

This five day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We will explore our spiritual reality, understand the nature of the battles we face, and learn how to stand firm in our faith.

Day 1

Ephesians 6:10-13

In the first day of our devotional, we focus on the reality that we are engaged in a spiritual battle. The scripture reminds us to be strong in the Lord and to put on the whole armor of God. It's crucial to recognize that evil days are a reality we must prepare for. By acknowledging this fact, we equip ourselves with the strength and protection needed to withstand the challenges that come our way. It is not merely about recognizing our weaknesses, but realizing that true strength comes from our connection to God.

- How do you currently stay prepared spiritually for difficulties?
- What does it mean to you to be "strong in the Lord"?
- Can you recall a time when you felt particularly strong in your faith? What contributed to that strength?
- Pray for awareness of the spiritual battles around you.
- Ask God to strengthen your connection with Him.

Day 2

John 16:33

On the second day, we examine the promise Jesus gives us about the presence of tribulations in our lives. While such days can overwhelm us, they are also opportunities for growth. We need to remind ourselves that through

these challenges, Christ gives us peace, empowering us to persevere. The acknowledgment of evil allows us to prepare our hearts and minds for what lies ahead, ensuring that we do not become blindsided by difficulties.

- What tribulations have you faced recently? How did you respond?
- In what ways have you seen God's presence during tough times?
- How can you encourage others who are facing their battles?
- Reflect on the peace that Christ offers amidst chaos.
- Seek guidance and wisdom in your current struggles through prayer.

Day 3

II Corinthians 4:8-9

As we reach day three, the focus shifts to resilience in our spiritual journey. The passage highlights that while we will face pressures and challenges, we are never forsaken or destroyed. Our faith is not a guarantee of an easy life, but rather a promise that we will emerge stronger through trials. The vital part of our spiritual reality is standing firm, understanding that victory lies in our ability to endure and rely on God's strength.

- What has helped you to stand firm when you've faced challenges?
- How do you view setbacks in your spiritual life?
- What scriptures do you lean on during difficult times?
- Pray for the strength to stand firm in your current struggles.
- Thank God for the resilience He has instilled in you through challenges.

Day 4

Ephesians 2:1-2

On day four, we explore the reality of the enemy we face. The scripture identifies the devil's schemes and strategies against our lives. Understanding the nature of our adversary is crucial. He is crafty and seeks openings to attack us. However, as believers, we are armed with the power of Christ, which protects and empowers us. While we must be vigilant, we also have the assurance that God's authority limits the enemy's reach.

- What strategies have you seen the enemy use in your life?
- How can awareness of spiritual warfare change your approach to daily challenges?
- What does it mean to you to be victorious in Christ?
- Pray for discernment against the enemy's tactics.
- Thank God for His protection and guidance in your life.

Day 5

1 John 3:8

In our final day, we reflect on the redemptive power of Jesus over sin and darkness. The scripture reveals the purpose of Christ's coming: to destroy the works of the devil. Our victory is not through physical combat but through partnerships with Christ to bring salvation and freedom to others. This realization is empowering as we embrace our role as agents of change in a broken world, leading others out of darkness into His marvelous light.

- How can you share the victory of Christ with others in your life?
- In what ways has Christ transformed your perspective on evil and redemption?
- What practical steps can you take to be an agent of change in someone's life?
- Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with others.
- Reflect on how to embody the love of Christ in your daily interactions.