



The book of Ephesians ends with some of the most powerful imagery found in any book of the Bible. Using the storytelling depiction of a Roman Empire battle scene, the Apostle Paul warns us that when we decided to follow Jesus, it wasn't as if we had landed on a *happy playground*. No, we stepped into a *harsh battle zone*. The truth is, as Christians, we are up against a seemingly insurmountable evil enemy force that seeks to utterly destroy our faithfulness to Christ. It is a sobering fact that this massive foe is led by the Devil himself and is 100% diabolic. The big question is this: How can the likes of little ol' you and me hope to have even the slightest chance against an adversary as monstrous and as powerful as Satan and his demons? Well, right here in the closing verses of Ephesians, we find God's wonderful answer. For the last few weeks of 2023, and the first few weeks of 2024, NCFE will be studying the battle plan of "General Jesus" for staying free of Satan's wicked oppression and walking faithfully with our God of goodness. Today we start by focusing in on what Scripture says "**victory**" in the Christian life looks like.

Fight the good fight of faithfulness. (1 Timothy 6:12)

1. (v.10a) Victory in the Christian life starts with and maintains a very...

2. (v.10b) Victory in the Christian life relies upon...

3. (v.11a) Victory in the Christian life requires...

4. (vv. 11b-12) Victory in the Christian life really does...

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

Even though Jesus is absolutely wonderful, if we're being honest, all of us struggle with being faithful to Him. So, standing on the bridge linking 2023 to 2024, now is a really good time for each of us to figure out how each of us will be more faithful to our Savior as this year ends and a new year begins. In **Ephesians 6:10-24**, the Apostle Paul tells us all we need to know for... *winning the fight to be faithful to Jesus*.

1. In the above paragraph, PJ wrote that Jesus is wonderful and being faithful is tough. To get your discussion rolling, with everyone participating, ask: What's so wonderful about Jesus and why is being faithful to Him so hard?

2. Read aloud **Ephesians 6:10**. The first part of experiencing victory in the Christian life revolves around getting closer to Jesus. What are your thoughts and plans for doing this as we approach a new year? Do the examples from the Old Testament give you some ideas or inspiration for growing more faithful?

3. Why is it important that we live the Christian life in God's strength and not our own? What are some practical steps for relying on Jesus' power?

4. PJ said, "The armor of God represents six qualities **of God** that are the resources **from God** that keep us faithful **to God** in our walk **with God**." How does wearing the armor of God help us be more faithful to Him? What's your favorite piece of armor?

5. In **Ephesians 6:11-17**, Paul has a lot to say about Satan. Why is it important for us to be mindful of the Devil and how does this knowledge help us gain spiritual victory in our quest to be more faithful to Jesus?