

SPIRITUAL WARFARE – “STAND FIRM” (Ephesians 6:10-11) 4/5/20

Intro: This crisis of Corona virus is certainly an occasion for spiritual warfare. In focusing here on Ephesians 6, there are realities much deeper, much more important, than any virus at work in the world today.

And the most important reality is God and He is still on the throne, at the same time while God is at work, there is an enemy at work too.

Text: Eph 6:10-11 *“Finally, **be strong** in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”*

CONTEXT: Climax of the book in Ch 6 is a call upon the believers in Ephesus to fight in this spiritual war.

This Lord’s Day focus on two words from this passage: **“Stand”** and **“Schemes”**

1. “STAND” (Vs 11)

- There’s a deliberate contrast in Ephesians. Up to this point, we see a lot of walking in Ephesians.
- **READ** – (4; 1, 17, 5:2, 8, 15)
- **READ** - (6:11, 13, 14,)
- Stand is how we fight. Walk is how we live
- So the most courageous thing you do in those moments is to **stand your ground**. Don’t break ranks. Hold your lines, men.

- **EXPLORE:** A good reminder for all of us who are spending lots of time in the home.
Reminder – To Husband & Wife, Parents & children – Time to invest in a spiritual home
- How can we repair relationships, , forgiveness, love, giving, grace...
Dealing with bitterness, rage etc.....?

The schemes of the devil have not changed and our call to stand has not changed...**SO STAY STANDING!**

2. “Schemes” (Vs 11)

- Against whom are we to stand firm? – Satan
- He uses **“craftiness”** to shake the believer from his firm standing in the faith.

EXPLORE: 2 Tim 2:26, Jhn 8:44, 2 Cor 11:14, 2 Cor 4:4.

How does the devil try to deceive us
What is his bait? What are his wiles?

- Note these schemes some that are explicitly mentioned as the devil's schemes and see which one of these may be especially relevant for you.
- **Eph 4:26** – Anger
- **2 Cor 2:10-11** - (Instead of forgiving as Christ forgave you, you keep a detailed record of wrongs. You keep a list.)
- **1 Tim 4:1-3** – (insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared. They're doing the work of deceitful spirits and promulgating the teaching of demons.)
- **Heb 2:14** – (That is the ultimate scheme of the devil. The devil has won a victory if he can get you to fear death more than you fear God. Fear is his power.)

CONCLUSION:

- **Know your enemy and take a Stand** _____
 - a. Satan continues to lead people to sin (1 Jhn 2:15-17)
 - b. Christ defeated Satan by His death and resurrection. (Heb 2:14-15)
- **Know your Allies** _____
 - a. We are not alone in our battle – Heb 12
 - b. God is faithful = 1 Cor 10:13
 - c. He has provided the Armor – Eph 6:13-18
 - d. Christ's blood enables us to overcome.

Paul says, "... be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might." That means you step out, filling your mind full of the things he has promised.

Trust him and obey his commands to live in a new life, standing firm.– Rom 6:1-5

Note: To hear this sermon in audio format go to

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