

SPIRITUAL WARFARE



1 Peter 5:6-11, ESV – *6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of August 30, 2020

1 Peter 5:6-11

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This weekend, we were reminded that we are to be sober-minded and watchful as Christians. What does it mean to be sober-minded and watchful?

2 What do most people in our culture think about who the devil is and what he can do? What is the danger of an inaccurate view of the devil?

3 What can you do to encourage one another to be sober-minded and watchful?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Ephesians 6:10-12, ESV** – 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.

4 Looking at the passages above, we are reminded that spiritual warfare is real. What else does this passage tell us about spiritual warfare?

5 How should we, as followers of Christ, act towards spiritual warfare?

B ***Luke 4:1-13, ESV** – And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’ ” ⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ ¹¹ and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ” ¹² And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.*

6 What is the greatest weapon that we have when Satan comes after us? How did Jesus use this weapon? What lessons can we learn from His example?

7 How do Scripture and spiritual practices/disciplines help you to ‘stand firm in your faith’?

C ***Psalms 55:22, ESV** – ²² Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.*

***James 4:6-8, ESV** – ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

8 According to the passages above, how should we respond when we are facing trials and tribulations?

9 How does submission to God help us to resist the devil? How is ‘casting our anxieties on God’ a form of submission?

TAKING IT HOME

As followers of Christ, we must remember that we are involved in a spiritual battle. Satan is real and he is always working against those who follow God. At the same time, we must remember that God is with us and sustains us for battle. Our part is to submit ourselves to His will, trust Him and follow Him in obedience. What areas of your life do you need to submit to God? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is laying on your heart and pray that you will submit to God's will for your life in these areas.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 40:17

Matthew 6:25, 26:40-41

Acts 14:22

Colossians 2:5, 4:2

1 Timothy 6:12

2 Timothy 2:10, 3:12

1 Thessalonians 2:12

Hebrews 13:21