



July 3, 2016
Celebration · 9:00 am
Elevation · 11:00 am
Pastor David Mitchell

Finding Victory in Our Struggles Ephesians 6:10-13

In Ephesians 4-6, Paul described a very challenging way to live out our faith which can be a struggle for some Christians. Paul now offers us help in today's passage.

Some areas we may struggle (from Ephesians 4-6):

- Faithfully living out my commitment to Christ. Ephesians 4:1-2
- Growing, serving, uniting and engaging in faithful significant ministry to other people. Ephesians 4:14-16
- Maintaining healthy interpersonal relationships:
 - Controlling my anger with other people. Ephesians 4:26-27
 - Effective and encouraging communication. Ephesians 4:29
 - Offering genuine forgiveness and kindness when hurt. Ephesians 4:32
 - Living in holiness. Ephesians 5:3-4
- Involved in a healthy, committed, loving, growing marriage. Ephesians 5:22-33
- Rearing children to follow Jesus. Ephesians 6:1-4
- Serving others as Christ would in social and business relationships. Ephesians 6:5-9

We must depend on the power of God to live as followers of Jesus. Ephesians 6:10

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might."

- Strong, strength, might
Daniel 10:13

We must put on the full armor of God so we can stand firm in our faith. Ephesians 6:11-12

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

- Because we have an enemy, the devil, that will attack us with his "schemes."
Schemes =
2 Corinthians 11:3, 12-15; Luke 22:31-34. (See Digging Deeper on back for more "schemes")
- Because there are organized spiritual forces that will attack us.
 - They have "rulers," and "authorities" to attack us.
 - They have the territory of the whole "world" to attack us.
 - They have a wicked intent in attacking us.

Therefore, let's take up the full armor of God to resist and stand firm against all evil.

Ephesians 6:13

"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."

- Hebrews 2:14-15; Ephesians 5:18. Pray Paul's Prayers in Ephesians 1:15-23 and 3:14-21

"Dear Heavenly Father, please give me Your strength and power to overcome the attacks of the evil one in my life. I am experiencing Satan's attack in these ways: (privately acknowledge what you need to resist). I confess any sin that hinders my relationship with Christ. My desire is to truly resist the all evil temptations and stand firm in the Your truth and holiness. Thank you for filling me with Your Holy Spirit to enable me now to live my life for You and find victory in all my struggles. In Jesus' Name."

Digging Deeper

When you examine the world, you see many struggles in countries and personal lives. Whether the struggle comes from our government restricting our Christian freedoms or in our personal lives where conflicts and attacks are undermining our relationships/marriages, we need to remember the source of these struggles—the evil one. Revelation 12:7-11 reveals three names or titles for him: Satan which means adversary; devil which means accuser, and dragon which comes from the root word “derk” which means to see. He sees our lives, accuses us wrongfully to our Lord and stands as our adversary as we attempt to live for Christ. For this reason, we need God’s help and armor from Ephesians 6:10-20.

LifeGroup Discussion

The Bible identifies known areas and issues Satan will use to attack us. Consider the following scriptures and reflect if you are experiencing Satan’s opposition or undermining of your faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Satan will disguise his attacks through religious people and organizations to distort God’s truth. II Corinthians 11:14, 15; I Timothy 4:1-3; II Timothy 3:5; II Corinthians 4:3,4; Genesis 3
- He will attack, weaken and try to defeat your faith as you try to stay faithful to Jesus. Luke 22:31-34
- He will undermine your life through broken hurting relationships and a failure to forgive. 2 Corinthians 2:8-11
- He will tempt anyone to sin when their marriage is broken or in conflict. 1 Corinthians 7:5
- He will challenge your faith when you experience health struggles and do not seem to heal. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- He will attack when anxiety and worry overwhelm you, often when suffering. I Peter 5:6-9
- Cause you to live under guilt and shame rather than freedom of forgiveness in Christ. Revelation 12:10-11

Pray about any of these areas or other ways you are experiencing attacks from the evil one. God offers us all His power, strength and might to overcome Satan as in Revelation 12:11.

Next Steps

1. **Pray with someone to be encouraged and assured of God’s power in your life.** There are people available to pray with you at the Prayer Points during worship today. You can also use The Card (located in the rack in front of your seat) to share any prayer requests with us, which are prayed for weekly by Calvary’s Staff, Elders and Prayer Team. Drop The Card into the offering today or to the Church Office during the week. Learn more about prayer at Calvary at calvarylife.org/prayer
2. **Come to the Discover Jesus class on Wednesdays through July 20 at 7:00 pm in the Worship Center Lobby.** This 9-week course will help you discover how to live and love like Jesus. Come grow in your faith by journeying through the foundational elements of discipleship with a mentor. If you’re a new follower of Jesus, or want to become more grounded in the basics of Christianity, this is perfect for you! calvarylife.org/discover
3. **Join a LifeGroup so you do not have to face life’s challenges alone.** LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. They meet both on Sundays here on campus and in people’s homes. For more info, visit calvarylife.org/lifegroups