

Ephesians: Part 26 - A New View On Temptation

Ephesians 6:10-24- “Finally, be strong in the Lord & 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. For we do not wrestle against flesh & 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. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to w/stand in the evil day, & having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, & having put on the breastplate of righteousness, &, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, w/ which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; & take the helmet of salvation, & the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, w/ all prayer & supplication. To that end keep alert w/ all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, & also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. So that you also may know how I am & what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother & faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, & that he may encourage your hearts. Peace be to the brothers, & love w/ faith, from God the Father & the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be w/ all who love our Lord Jesus Christ w/ love incorruptible”

1. Our Faith Is A Fight!

2. Who Are We Fighting?

He's Really Powerful:

1 Peter 5:8- “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

3. What Are His Weapons?

Schemes Of The Devil:

The Devil Lies To Us:

John 8:44- “You are of your father the devil, & your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, & has nothing to do w/ the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar & the father of lies.”

The Devil Accuses Us:

Rev 12:10- “And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation & the power & the kingdom of our God & the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day & night before our God.”

4. How Do We Fight Back?

Put On The Whole Armor Of God

Belt Of Truth:

Breastplate Of Righteousness:

Shoes That Are Ready W/ The Gospel Of Peace:

Shield Of Faith:

Helmet Of Salvation:

Sword Of The Spirit:

Hebrews 4:12- “For the word of God is living & active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul & of spirit, of joints & of marrow, & discerning the thoughts & intentions of the heart.”

In Addition: “Pray & Stay Alert”

Matthew 6:9 & 13- “Pray like this...& lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” (Look at what happened in the Garden)

Luke 22:40-46- “And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” And he w/drew from them about a stone's throw, & knelt down & prayed, saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; & his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping

for sorrow, & he said to them, "Why are you sleeping?
Rise & pray that you may not enter into temptation."

We Fight In A Community That Is A Brotherhood:

Genesis 2:18- "Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

Psalms 133:1 & 3b- "A Song of Ascents. Of David. Behold, how good & pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore."

5. We Cannot Forget Our Need Of God

Romans 12:9-10- "But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content w/ weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, & calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

RESPONSE:

Without God, You Are Hopeless:

Lone Rangers Are Dead Rangers:

Hebrews 3:12-13- "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it's called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."