

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for July 24, 2022

Sermon Notes

Finally Church, Be Strong in the Lord Ephesians 6:10-20

In Ephesians, we go from the heights of heavenly places and heavenly realities (Ch 1-3), down to life in this world (Ch 4-6), and the everyday application of living as children of light – walking in holiness and unity and humility in our church, in our home, and in our community. Then, as he concludes Ephesians, Paul takes us back up into the heavenly places. In this closing passage, the heavenly realm is opened up to us so we see the stark reality of hostile spiritual powers aligned against Christ and his Church. Paul's purpose in this is not to entertain us with spiritual fantasy or satisfy our curiosity. Paul writes to warn us of a powerful evil foe who opposes us as we seek to follow Christ. He also writes to teach us how to fight and overcome this enemy.

God's eternal plan is to create a new society founded upon the Lord Jesus Christ and his redeemed people – to unite all things in Christ. The devil does all he can to destroy this plan. In Christ, God is breaking down the walls that divide people of different races and nationalities and cultures. The devil and his spiritual forces are doing all they can to build walls and sustain these divisions. God intends for his reconciled and redeemed people to live together in harmony and holiness. Satan intends to separate us from one another and cause us to sin. God's plan for our lives, our marriages, and our families is to reflect the gospel and glorify Christ. So the devil and his forces are relentless in their attack on God's people and our families.

This war is real, the enemy is strong, but the ultimate victory is certain and already secured through Christ our Redeemer and Champion. Jesus said, *"I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"* (Matt 16:18). It's in our unity with Him that we have strength to withstand, armor for the fierce fight, and prayer that supports and covers the saints involved in the struggle.

Finally: walking worthy is not a walk in the park – we are at war.

Strong in the Lord: strength for this spiritual war is not our own – it's the Lord's strength.

The whole armor of God: protection in this war is not our own – it's the whole armor of God.

The spiritual forces of evil: the enemy is not flesh & blood - it's the spiritual enemies of God.

Stand firm: The outcome of this war is our victory – in Christ alone we stand firm.

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Know

**What does God intend for me to know?
In your journal, use the following prompts to write
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...	I was reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?
In your journal, use the following questions to write
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey?	Am I convicted to confess any sin?
How am I compelled to exalt God?	Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?	How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
Is there a principle to follow?	How can I pray for someone else?
Is there an example to follow?	What am I compelled to love or desire?

Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write
your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

What is helpful to you about the illustration of war in regard to the Christian life? How would you live your life differently if you lived in an active war zone? How should that apply to our Christian lives?

What does Paul's frequent use of "stand" signify in spiritual warfare? How do we gain and maintain spiritual awareness that keeps us sober to the reality of the spiritual war always raging around us?

What do we learn about the identity and the strategies of our enemy from this passage?

**Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.*

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