

Standing Against The Enemy - Ephesians 6:10-13

Introduction

In this short passage, Paul introduces us to the reality of spiritual warfare and starts to draw his letter to a conclusion, as indicated by the word “finally” in 6:10. We will conclude our own studies in Ephesians next week.

Read Ephesians 6:10-13

1. How do you respond to the idea that there are spiritual forces in the universe that work against God’s will?
2. In what ways have you experienced spiritual warfare?
3. Where else has Paul talked about spiritual forces in Ephesians? See 1:21, 3:10, 4:27.
4. Do you think rulers and authorities might refer to social, economic and political forces rather than to personal demonic beings? Explain.
5. Once again, we are told to “put on” something, this time the full armour of God. What might be some consequences of failing to do so?
6. Paul also talks about armour in Romans 13:12 and 1 Thessalonians 5:8. What do you notice from these verses?
7. What are some of the schemes of the devil v11? There is a specific example in 2 Corinthians 2:10-11.
8. What might “taking your stand” mean for you specifically, v11?

9. Participating in war is not fun. What fears and doubts do you have about the reality of spiritual battle and unseen enemies?

Personal reflection:

You may wish to read *The Screwtape Letters*, by C S Lewis. They are an excellent and humorous insight into the devil's schemes. Written in 1941, they are a Christian classic, still relevant today.

“The devil....the proud spirit....cannot endure to be mocked.” Thomas More 1478 –1535

“The best way to drive out the devil, if he will not yield to scripture, is to jeer and flout him, for he cannot bear scorn.” Martin Luther 1483-1546