



Series: Dealing with Temptation

Ephesians 6:10-18

Strength to Stand Against Temptation

Ministry Moments: Have you had a ministry moments you'd like to share? Where did God minister to you? How did God use you to minister to others?

Follow up: In our study of dealing with temptation, is there something that really caught your attention?

Session Focus: God equips us to stand our ground against temptation.

Prayer: Lord, help us learn how to be equipped for spiritual battle. Thank you for providing spiritual armor, and spiritual weapons to make us effective for the kingdom.

Background: In Ephesians, Paul addressed points of Christian doctrine and the behaviors they should produce. He speaks of God's plan for the church and His people. Biblical scholars generally divide the letter in two sections with the first three chapters comprising the doctrinal section and the last three the behavioral section.

However, Ephesians 6:10-18 could be viewed as a separate section altogether since it addresses the topic of spiritual warfare.

READ Ephesians 6:10-13 Study Points

• We do not strengthen ourselves, but the Lord is the One who strengthens us. *Stand firm, but by faith allow God to be our strength.*

• "His vast strength" is the same strength that raised Jesus from the dead. **READ Ephesians 1:19-20**

• In our battle, as born again believers in Christ, is a daily war. We are under constant threat of attack. Each day we may face *an evil enemy who wants to destroy* our God-given purpose *through deception and temptation.*

• Remember, God's strength is perfected in our weakness. (i.e. Possessed, as a claim for property is perfected in the courts.) **READ 2 Corinthians 12:9**

fold

READ Ephesians 6:14-16 Study Points:

• The "belt of truth" refers to the harness a Roman soldier wore that held all the rest of their equipment. Like this belt, understanding all of God's truth is foundational.

• The "the breastplate of righteousness" refers to armor that prevents serious injury in close combat. When we put on Jesus's righteousness, He protects our core being. Speaking of Jesus, Isaiah 59:17a says "He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head."

• The "shoes for your feet" refers to a Roman soldier's unique readiness for long marches at incredible speed over difficult terrain. For believers, our gospel-readiness prepares a sure foothold in the spiritual battle.

• The "shield of faith" refers to the fact that Roman soldiers did not fight alone – especially when attacked by fast moving projectiles from multiple directions. They had faith in their fellow soldiers to form a larger shield by locking into a formation known as a "turtle."

How might believers interlock shields of faith?

READ Ephesians 6:17-18 Study Points:

• The "helmet of salvation" refers to the knowledge that we are protected eternally by a salvation that cannot be lost. **READ John 5:24-25**

• The "sword of the Spirit" (God's Word) can be used for both defense and offense. By learning to pray God's word we can wield His sword to great effect. (Heb. 4:12)

What have you experienced about spiritual warfare, that you think is important for all believers to know?

Spiritual Challenge: – WE WITNESS – (Rev. 12:10-11)
Safely share your testimony in 5 minutes or less.

1. What was life like before Christ? ACTS 26:4-11 (01:39)
2. What happened? ACTS 26:12-19 (01:39)
3. What is your life like now? ACTS 26:20-23 (01:39)

MEMORY VERSE

Assurance of Victory
1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

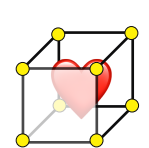
MAY / JUN Birthdays

- 05/04 Ellen Jackson
- 05/17 Dick Thompson
- 06/01 GayLee Pearce
- 06/03 Ken Pearce
- 06/00 Kenneth Glover

(Are we missing anyone?)

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

The framework from within which we allow God's Holy Spirit to have His creative, and transforming action on our soul. Fruit grows,



with Love in the center of our life.

1. We Worship
2. We Pray
3. We Study
4. We Serve
5. We Witness
6. We Fellowship