

Week Three: *Evil Part 2: The Unseen Battle*
Ephesians 6:10-24

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. Billy Graham said that every Christian has three enemies, as described in Ephesians 2:1-3. Look up that passage. What three enemies can you identify in this text?
2. If our three enemies are “the world,” “our own flesh,” and “Satan,” how would you rank them in terms of the threat that they pose? What factors informed your ranking?
3. Many people might rank Satan last, if only because half of Christian believers in the United States don’t think Satan is real. What do you think about the existence of Satan?
4. Now read Paul’s letter to the believers in the ancient town of Ephesus. Which of the three enemies does Paul call out in Ephesians 6:10-12?
5. What does Paul want us to do in light of this enemy?
6. How seriously have you taken this particular adversary? What steps, if any, have you taken in your own faith journey to resist the devil?
7. End your FIFTEEN by praying to God and ask him to help you identify the devil’s presence in your life, so that you may more capably fight against this particular enemy.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. According to the Apostle Paul, every Christian is supposed to be equipped like a soldier in the battle against the devil. Does Paul’s exhortation sound thrilling to you or intimidating? Why?
9. Read Ephesians 6:10-14. What two pieces of armor does Paul identify?
10. What do you think it looks like in real life to buckle on a “belt of truth”?
11. What particular characteristic of Satan would a belt of truth protect us against? (See John 8:44 for help with this answer.)

12. "Righteousness" is a complex word. Look up Romans 3:22. What do you think righteousness means in this context, and how might it protect you from the attacks of the devil, which make you doubt what Jesus Christ has given you?
13. What is one practical change you could make today that would help you embrace truth and righteousness for your spiritual warfare?
14. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for God to equip you mightily with his armor, to spot the devil's lies and quench the doubts he tries to enflame in God's faithful.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

15. The apostle Paul continues his list of spiritual armor from yesterday. Read Ephesians 6:10-16, focusing especially on verses 15 and 16. What are the two new pieces of equipment?
16. A belt of truth and breastplate of righteousness are pretty straightforward. But what do you think is the connection between shoes and "the gospel of peace"?
17. Is the peace for helping you stand your ground, or for running into (or out of) battle? Why do you think that?
18. How is faith related to peace? Why might Paul have considered faith to be a shield?
19. As a reminder, who is shooting the "fiery arrows" at you?
20. What are the kinds of "arrows" Satan has shot at you? What lies or attacks have been thrown at you?
21. End your FIFTEEN by taking the things you thought of and pray them to God, asking him to give you a large shield of faith with which to block out the fiery arrows of the devil.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

22. The heavenly boot camp continues! Read Ephesians 6:10-17. What are the final two pieces of God's spiritual armor for you?
23. What part of the body does a helmet protect? Why do you think salvation is the promise that protects our heads?

24. What are real, practical things we can do to “protect our heads” when it comes to living out the faith?
25. What do you think Paul means by saying the sword is “of the Spirit”? Who owns the sword? Does the Spirit empower the sword?
26. In real world (non-metaphorical terms), what does Paul say the sword of the Spirit actually is?
27. How can you wield this sword in real life? And who is the sword supposed to pierce? Other people? Satan? Your own self?
28. Finish your FIFTEEN by asking God to give you his discernment, through reading his Word, to use the sword of the Spirit wisely and well.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

29. Start your time by simply re-reading Ephesians 6:10-20. What piece of armor sticks out to you? Why?
30. Do you think these pieces of armor are intended to be defensive or offensive? Why do you think so?
31. Look again at verses 18-20. What is the key action that Paul wants us to do once we are strapped into God’s armor?
32. How easy is it to pray “at all times and on every occasion”?
33. Let’s practice what Paul describes. Spend the rest of your FIFTEEN praying intentionally for the believers in your life, so that you may help strengthen them for the unseen battle that they are facing right now.