



Summer Study Discussion Guide #12

Sermon Title: Understanding the Battle

Biblical Reference: Ephesians 6

Date Preached: Sunday, August 28th, 2022, @ 11am

Summer Study Date: Wednesday, August 31st, 2022

Study Group Feedback

This week will be a little different as this is our last summer study group meeting. Our new groups will begin after the men's retreat and missions conference on October 26th. This week we will ask questions to get feedback about the Study Groups experience. Our desire is to improve the next Study Group session. To provide time to fill out and discuss the following feedback questions we understand that you may not be able to finish this Study Guide.

The feedback is especially important so please take your time on answering the questions. This will be an anonymous survey to fill out as you follow along with the group. We hope you enjoy this time of fellowship.

Sermon Summary

In Ephesians 6, Paul reveals to us some sobering truths about the spiritual battle we face. Many Christians are not engaged in this battle for a couple of reasons. 1: Some have a blueprint worldview, and they believe everything is happening according to God's plan so there is no reason to try change things. 2: They do not understand what it means to be in a spiritual battle. They do not know who they are fighting, what the objectives are, or what strategy to use while engaging. It is all mysterious to them.

The goal of this message is to get people to understand the objective and to have the tools they need to engage in the battle.

Digging Deeper

1. Objectives

- To please the Lord
- To rescue the Lost
- To empower the saints

Ask a volunteer to read:

2Ti 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

This portion of the sermon focused on the objectives in spiritual warfare. *Spiritual warfare is engaging the devil and the forces of darkness through the power of God, The Word of God, and the power of prayer.* The first objective in this spiritual battle is to please the Lord.

Discussion Questions:

- In what way does our outlook change when we are no longer fighting for personal reasons, but for the sole purpose of pleasing the Lord?
- Is there anything that you would need to change to live according to 2 Tim 2:4?
- What are the personal implications of knowing you were created for the pleasure of the Lord?

Objective 2

- **To rescue the Lost**

Ask a volunteer to read:

Act 26:15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

Act 26:16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Act 26:17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

Act 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

2Co 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

2Co 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Discussion Questions:

- Looking at verse 18, can you tell us what it was like when you were in darkness and under the power of Satan?
- Would it change how we approach our neighbors with the gospel if we kept verse 18 in mind?
- What methods have you observed Satan use to accomplish 2 Cor 4:4?

Objective 3

- **To build up and empower the saints**

Ask a volunteer to read:

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Discussion Questions:

- According to the above verses why is it imperative that to be prepared for this spiritual battle?
- How do you put on the Armor of God?
- Can you tell us what verse 12 looks like in your experience?

2. Strategies

- *Give out the truth*
- *Living clean*
- *Prayer and fasting*
- *Doing your part*

Ask a volunteer to read:

2Ti 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

2Ti 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

2Ti 2:26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Discussion Questions:

- According to the above verses what effect can the truth have on people ensnared by the devil?
- What difficulties may we face in giving out the truth?
- Can you tell us an example of when you have seen the above verses happen in your life or the life of someone else?
- One of the devil's main weapons are lies. Can you give an example of how his lies affected you or someone you loved for years? And how that blindness was lifted?

Prayer and fasting

Ask a volunteer to read:

Mar 9:28 And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?

Mar 9:29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Luk 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

Luk 22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Discussion Questions:

- Why were the disciples powerless in the spiritual battle against this spirit residing in this boy?
- When Jesus was on earth and his disciple was facing spiritual attack, His response was to pray. Why is this not our first line of defense?
- What lessons can be drawn from this incident about the power of prayer?

Doing your part

Ask a volunteer to read:

Rom 15:30 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;
Rom 15:31 That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;
Rom 15:32 That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

Discussion Questions:

- According to the above verses what is a way we can work in other people's lives though not in the same geographical location?
- Why do you believe many Christians are not engaged in spiritual warfare? When it is so simple to engage?

Taking It Home

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they can do because of hearing the message:

1. What point in this message was most impactful for you?
2. How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
3. How will you put into practice what you have learned today?