

Last week's memory verse: 1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE

Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

LIFE IS A BATTLEFIELD

- Identify your enemy. Satan and demons are real.

Ezekiel 28:12-17 *'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: " 'You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴ You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. ¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. ¹⁶ Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. ¹⁷ Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.*

Isaiah 14:13-15 *You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." ¹⁵ But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.*

- Be aware of the enemy's tactics. He promotes evil in every way possible. He works directly by deception, temptation, and attack. He blinds the minds of unbelievers to hinder their understanding of the gospel. He tempts believers in Jesus to follow the desires of their flesh. He promotes false teaching among believers. He promotes anger, bitterness, and division. Demons are deceitful and immoral. Demons work to carry out Satan's evil plans.
- Identify your allies. Jesus and angels are real. Thirty-four books (of sixty-six total) refer to angels. Christ taught their existence (Matt.8:10; 24:31; 26:53 etc.). Angels carry out God's plans. They protect God's people. They oppose our enemies and are assigned to us as guardians. Jesus has defeated Satan. (Genesis 3:15 *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*)
- Life is meant to be lived in relationship with Jesus. Satan and his demons have greater power than humans on their own. Jesus and his angels are far superior to Satan and his demons. The enemy's power is broken over our lives when we follow Jesus. We are hopeless and helpless when living on our own. We are confident and indestructible when we are living in relationship with Jesus. Revelation 12:11 *They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.*

OUR STRENGTH COMES FROM THE LORD AND HIS MIGHTY POWER

He created the world we live in and the universe around us. He created human life. He commands the wind and the waves. He walks on water. He heals all kinds of disease. He forgives sins. He multiplies bread to feed the multitudes. He defeated Satan through his sinless life, death, and resurrection from the dead. He ascended from earth to heaven. He holds the keys to eternal life. There is no limit to what He can do.

This week's memory verse: James 4:7 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*