

# Ephesians

## Week Twelve

### Big Idea:

Because God wants us to stand firm in our fight against Satan's attacks we must rely upon His armor, His Word, and prayer to be victorious.

### Fallen Condition:

We are not aware of the enemy of our souls, nor are we adequately prepared to combat true evil in our lives, therefore we depend on our own strength and abilities to stand firm in our faith.

**Introduction:** *(Don't let discussion get political or about the war in Iraq, this is just a way to orient everyone to the passage)*

The United States has spent trillions of dollars arming ourselves against aggression from other countries. Radar, stealth bombers, aircraft carriers, night vision goggles, missiles, and a host of other offensive and defensive weaponry are designed to protect our way of life. Military personnel track every conceivable avenue of attack to make sure we are safe.

\*Is walking with God every a battle for you? What do you do?

\*Do you think Satan is real?

\*If so, what do you think his purpose and aim is?

\*If you were Satan how would you undermine the faith of a MSU student?

### The Biblical Text: Ephesians 6:10-24

### The Real Battle (vs. 10-12)

1. Who is the battle against? (1 Peter 5:8)

*Satan, rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world, evil forces in the heavenly realm.*

2. Why do you think Paul brings up Satan's attacks?

*The people of the Ephesians church were unaware and therefore unprepared to battle Satan.*

3. What is the goal of the enemy in this war?

*To cause our faith to crumble, to lose faith in God, to rely on our selves and our own strength and self-discipline.*

4. What are some ways that Satan especially attacks you?

*He lies to us. Tells us things we want to hear, but are contrary to God's word. Makes sin seem not so bad. Justifies sin in our minds.*

**Have each person write out all the armor and weaponry that Paul describes.**

### God's Defensive Weaponry (vs. 13-17)

1. What do you see as God's defensive weaponry?

2. What do you think Paul means by "stand firm"?

*Be confident, don't doubt, have strong conviction for what the Lord has said, be centered on God.*

3. What strikes you about this list you wrote out? Which piece of God's armor do you rely on the most? Which is lacking most in your life?

4. What are some practical ways that you can grow in the "pieces of armor" where you are lacking?

**God's Offensive Weaponry (18-20)**

1. What are God's two offensive weapons?
2. Why are these weapons offensive?
3. Why does it seem as if we treat them and use them as defensive weapons?
4. What keeps you from being aware of the real battle?
5. What keeps you from being prepared for the real battle?

**Summary:**

It is important to God that we stand firm in our faith in the face of Satan's attacks. We need to recognize that our battle is against a real enemy and that enemy wants our faith to crumble. God freely provides his awesome power in order for us to stand up against these attacks. Through prayer and the Word we are to depend on God and stand firm in Christ and his spirit.

**Big Idea:**

Because God wants us to stand firm in our fight against Satan's attacks we must rely upon His armor and prayer to be victorious.

**Take time to pray for each other in this area.**