



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“The Fight of Faith”

Ps Kevin York – July 30, 2017

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

1. Looking at all the villains in super hero movies, which one do you consider to be the worst? Why?
2. When you were growing up, did you ever engage in a physical fight? What started it? What was the outcome of the altercation?
3. If you had to go to war, whom would you choose to go with you?

Ephesians 6:10-20 (ESV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

In Ephesians, Paul emphasizes the fact that as believers, we are in Christ. Throughout the whole letter, Paul unpacks the meaning of being in Christ. Being in Christ means that Jesus Christ is the single passion of our life and that we are in Christ because of what He did for us. We are also to be in community, meaning serving, loving, and doing life with one another. There is also an emphasis on “fighting.” As Christians we are constantly either in a fight, exiting a fight, or preparing to be in a new fight. This could be with regard to ourselves, fighting for our souls, fighting for others, etc.

- The way you fight changes when you are in Christ. You will fight differently regarding all aspects of your life including your marriage, children, work, etc.
1. **Fight Evil:** If you are in Christ your real battle is not against flesh and blood but against evil. There are two plans for your life: God’s plan and the devil’s plan. We are to fight the spiritual forces. If you use human weapons you are fighting against the wrong things. That’s a road full of bitterness. Satan and demons are real and you as a human are no match against them. There is evil in us as humans and Satan’s scheme is to make

us fight flesh on flesh; therefore, coming upon the “Evil Day.” But, if you are in Christ, this is no match for you, based on what Christ has done for us. The ultimate win is when you overcome the evil in your own soul, when you are fighting the evil, because you are fighting “In Christ.”

2. **Fight Empowered:** To be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might ought to be the only goal upon which we focus. Being strong in the Lord and His mighty power is what gets us out of bed each morning. God asks from you what he has given you. Being strong in the Lord and putting on the armor of God is what we are to seek – power is never the goal. Strength in the Lord is what clears the blockage in our souls. When you are strong in the Lord you are armored and can fight in power. We are weak when we use carnal weapons and fight humans. Sin and weakness are the results of Christians who neglect their walk with the Lord. This is not something you declare, this is something you are!
 - Jesus gives us four imperative and passive commands:
 - Stand
 - Be Strong
 - Put On
 - Take Up
3. **Fight Together:** The whole book of Ephesians is plural. Christianity is not a solo journey. We are to live and fight in community. We are to quit caring about what we think, our “original ideas”. This line of thinking will get us in trouble. Fighting together and in community should equate to reality. We are to drop the fakeness and stop trying to save our own reputations. When you fight alone you become easy prey. In the “Day of Evil” everybody will crack and become the issue, but when we fight together we become impenetrable. We serve to connect and fight in community.
4. **Fight Standing:** We can fight because we understand that this is the only fight we are ever going to encounter. Jesus will restore everything. The promise God has for us is that someday evil will be destroyed. The enemy will be punished. Hatred, bitterness and weakness will cease to exist.
5. **Fight Praying:** Praying at all times. If we are conscious and aware that we cannot fight with human weapons, we will engage in spiritual battle. Fighting the spiritual battle we should be praying with everything in us to the only one who can give us the strength and weapons needed to fight in His power.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

1. What are some changes you need to make to strengthen your life in the Lord?
2. How does the understanding of the spiritual aspect of the fight you are in, currently finishing, or about to enter affect the way you face these trials?
3. Who are the people that would help you fight the fight of faith in the time and “Day of Evil”? Who is in your community?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Repent for using human/carnal weapons to fight.
- Pray that the Lord may strengthen your life to help you face the fight of faith.
- Pray for discernment to understand the evil forces and fight against them.