

DISCUSSION QUERIES

Ephesians 6:10-20

READ 6:10-11

10 Finally, [stay] strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

DISCUSS

What does it mean to be “strong” in this context?

- Be strong = able to resist diabolical schemes.
- Present tense and passive voice of the Greek imperative implies ability continually coming from outside of ourselves.

How do we gain that strength?

- By learning, practicing and teaching the pieces of “armour” listed in this passage.

READ 6:12

12 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.

DISCUSS

What kinds of ‘flesh and blood’ tyrants oppose God and humans, in your experience?

Who are these ‘cosmic powers’?

Maybe:

- Rulers = lying spirits who issue orders to human governors.
- Authorities = powerful spirits who work through greedy humans.
- Cosmic powers = scheming spirits who coordinate international opposition.
- Spiritual forces = deceiving spirits who motivate carnal human beings.

READ 6:13

13 [For this reason] 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.

DISCUSS

Since “the days are evil”, what is “the evil day”?

- Any one of the evil days.
- A then current evil day.
- Our current evil day.
- An evil day at the End-of-Days.

DISCUSSION QUERIES ON EPHESIANS 6:10-20

READ 6:14-15

14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

DISCUSS

How do Christians do so?

- Learn, trust, obey and teach Scriptural content.
- Passively receive Jesus' righteousness as our own, actively learning to obey his commandments.
- Learn, believe, affirm and share how to have peace with God through faith in Jesus crucified and risen.

READ 6:16-17

16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ...

DISCUSS

How do Christians do so?

- Compare every idea and action with Scripture, rejecting every lie, mistake and destructive behaviour.
- Believe we are saved, seeking to save those whom the Lord brings to us.
- Count on the Holy Spirit to make biblical truth effective in ourselves and in others.

READ 6:18

... 18 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, ...

DISCUSS

What does it mean to pray "in spirit in every season"?

Individuals:

- This does not require words or formulae.
- Envision God blessing others at any time.
- Thinking Amen to godly ideas and images.

Groups:

- Agreeing with others' spoken prayers.
- Speaking to God blessing for others as the Holy Spirit reveals to us God's will for them.
- Mentioning others by name, requesting for them God's will revealed in Scripture.

DISCUSSION QUERIES ON EPHESIANS 6:10-20

How can Christians pray on behalf of “all the saints” since there are so many of them?

Think or speak prayers (spiritual desires) and petitions (specific requests):

- As others come to mind.
- As we become aware of their needs.
- Excluding none by race, nationality, theology or denomination.
- Personal and group prayer calendars or lists.

READ 6:19-20

... 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

DISCUSS

How important is group prayer to make the gospel spread throughout our city?

What should we ask God to do?

What steps could our churches take to make this kind of prayer happen?

EXTRA CREDIT

If God has decreed all that He will ever do, then why should we bore ourselves trying to change his mind?

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