

MONDAY 05.25.26 - 1 Thessalonians 5:6

Teachers don't appreciate it when students sleep in class. A snoozing pupil is a sure sign that the individual is not grasping what's being communicated and may suffer when the test comes. Spiritual drowsiness is a problem for believers as well. Paul called the Thessalonians to "keep awake and be sober." In other words, he directs them to live with spiritual alertness and discernment. Likewise, we need to be aware of what's happening around us. Because spiritual warfare is real, our alertness needs to be real too. We cannot drift through life spiritually passive or inattentive. Rather, we are different from those around us—not sleeping as others do. We maintain a vigilance that helps us recognize the devil's schemes and stand firm in Christ. Awareness and alertness are often overlooked as spiritual disciplines, yet they are vital for faithful living. How could you be more alert?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 05.26.26 - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

What a powerhouse! Satan has but a little while, however long that is, and he knows that his end is coming and is near, again, in his term of time. Meanwhile, he accuses the brethren on every front and wreaks havoc wherever he can among the people of the earth, and especially among the household of faith. But praise our God, today's verses teach us that power is on our side. Whatever besets you, Reader, can be overcome. Do you suffer from financial ills, or depression, or employment woes, family confusion, physical ailments, moral corruptions; have you been dipping into dark waters?

Every high thing that exalts itself can be resisted. Every wayward or despicable thought can be captured and brought into obedience. This is a promise from the Father of Lights. So go to Him, call on Him and obey Him through the power of the spirit He will give you. Live right!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 05.27.26 - Ephesians 6:16-17

Bob Bishop writes: A few years ago, we had a church workday. After cleaning out the flower beds, we threw the old bark dust into the dumpster. The garbage company informed me that they couldn't pick up our garbage because it contained bark dust. I opened the dumpster to remove it. I couldn't even see the bark dust because a pile of garbage had been thrown on top of it - kitchen garbage, soured milk containers, leftover food scraps, and discarded clothing. I spread out a big tarp and began to shovel garbage. As I shoveled a little further, I found little pieces of scripture torn from a Bible study mixed in here and there. It kind of hit home. The human mind can become a garbage dump if we don't guard what goes into it. The results will be unpleasant - even if there is a little Scripture mixed in.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 05.28.26 - Joshua 1:8

Knowing the truths of God's word is integral to knowing God; His word is how He speaks to us today. Recognizing Satan and his evil schemes quickly and not being taken in by those schemes requires Christians to know what the OPPOSITE is of what is evil, that is God and goodness. When we know God's word, we can use it the standard by which all things are measured. How often have you heard something on the radio or television that at first sounds good, but upon closer

examination is just a bit "off"? It doesn't quite "line up" with what you know is God's truth. Meditating on scripture; really knowing God's word enables us as believers to recognize falsehood when we see it or hear it. It is then that we will have success in "standing" against Satan and his deceptive schemes.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 05.29.26 - Psalm 119:11

*I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.*

As a supplement to day's devotional, I want to encourage you to read Ephesians 6:10-18 where the Apostle Paul presents the armor of God and notice that the only offensive weapon listed is the Word of God. Just like the Roman soldier, we can put on all our armor but if forget to take our sword our chance of winning the battle diminishes greatly. So how do we put on the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God? First, we must read and study the Word of God regularly. Second, we must memorize scripture so we can carry our sword with us wherever we go. Just like the Roman soldier needed to practice daily the art of sword fighting so must we. Just as Christ used the Word of God to overcome Satan's temptation so must we. Be on your guard, be ready to fight, and don't forget to take your sword.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNING LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Beginning June 7th - 9am in Room 2

Ecclesiastes: "Finding Meaning When Life Feel Meaningless" By Lydia Brownback.

This 10-week study helps women understand the themes of sin, vanity, enjoyment, and death, ultimately encouraging believers to follow the will of God for their lives, no matter their current circumstances.

Sign up at the Welcome Center or use this QR code:



SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** **SUMMER QUARTER** - Sunday Mornings

LOCATION: B8-10 - June 7th - August 30th
EXPLORE THE BIBLE: Joshua; Judges; Ruth
By studying these books, we see that God is still at work, raising leaders from the most unlikely places.
We are challenged to reserve our loyalty for our ultimate Leader. Teachers: Joel Day & Lane Kemler

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Youth Group will be on summer break starting June 7th.**
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES,
USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

Ephesians 6:14-15 Spiritual Warfare (part 2)

The Book of Ephesians is about the Church—the Body of Christ.

In Ephesians 1-3, Paul presents the Church's Riches.

In chapters 4-6, Paul presents the Church's Responsibilities.

Paul states our responsibilities in a series of commands.

- Walk in unity (4:1-16)
- Walk in holiness (4:17-32)
- Walk in love (5:1-7)
- Walk in light (5:8-14)
- Walk in wisdom (5:15-6:9)
- Stand in warfare (6:10-20)

How do you stand your ground when you're being tempted to sin? The answer is by appropriating each piece of combat equipment that God has issued to you for spiritual warfare.

1. _____ the belt of truth (6:14a)
 - By _____ the truth in love
 - By being a man of _____
 - By being a woman of _____
2. _____ the breastplate of righteousness (6:14b)
 - By confessing your _____ to God
 - By rooting out evil _____ from your life
 - By practicing holy _____
3. _____ the boots of readiness (6:15)
 - By sharing the gospel of _____

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



May 25 - May 29

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Sunday, May 24th, the message will be from Ephesians 6:14-15, "Spiritual Warfare" (Part 2). Sunday, May 31st, we will hear a message from Ephesians 6:16-17, "Spiritual Warfare" (Part 3).

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power
Ephesians 6:10