

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Luther & Martha Smith | Papua New Guinea



PRAISE

- We have 7 new families and 1 single man in training. They all desire to start a church and to preach the Word!

- Preparations are under way for a new year at Wau Christian School. Martha held staff training with 7 teachers and 6 high school students, who will be helping with younger students.

PRAY

- Pray for Redemption Baptist Church. On February 28, Pastor Francis lost his wife, Lina. She remained faith to the end. Pastor Francis served with the Smith's in their first church in 1981.

- Pray for plans to return to the United States to visit church in July.



Handout: 04/28/24

Study Date: 05/05/24

Fight For Your Faithfulness

In Ephesians 6 Paul is wrapping up his letter to the church in Ephesus. He’s giving his final instructions and encouragements. His conclusion is full of practical advice and illustrations, including his famous call to *put on the full armor of God*.

Paul paints this picture in Ephesians 6:10-20 that Christians are in a battle and therefore need the basic tools a soldier would carry. Just as no soldier would go into battle with his armor, no Christian should go through life without this spiritual armor.

Ephesians 6:12 stresses the danger of the battle we are in and the importance of the tools we have. In essence this verse gives the reasons we should put on the armor of God.

FOR WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD

It’s easy to focus on what’s happening around us. The troubles we are facing, the chaos in our world, and the people against us. In Ephesians 6:12 Paul is trying to open our eyes and challenge us to look beyond what’s right in front of us.

We see urgency in this verse; we are in a battle. But it’s not the battle many Christians think it is. In this battle we do not wrestle against flesh and blood; it’s not against what we see. This is a spiritual battle. In other words our opponent is not people, it’s sin.

That’s not to say that there aren’t battles on the physical level. For example, we face physical temptations that we must say no to. However, the primary force we are facing is spiritual. The enemy we face cannot be seen.

When we choose to follow God and resist the devil, we will find ourselves in a battle. Paul is urging his readers to be aware of this battle and to prepare for it.

BUT AGAINST THE RULERS...

Paul continues his thought by identifying our spiritual enemies. He gives us a list of four enemies we fight against.

“Against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

Some view this list as a listing of ranks within Satan’s army. Rulers are seen as the highest rank all the way down to the general spiritual forces.

This goes to reinforce the fact that we are in a battle. Our enemy is prepared and attacking. The battles are happening all around us; even though we can’t see them, we can see the effects of these battles.

The point that Paul is trying to drive home is that we need to be prepared. We need to be ready.

Resource: rethinknow.org

KEY VERSE

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Ephesians 6:10,12; Zechariah 4:6; Philippians 4:13

Rely On God’s Strength

1. Ephesians 6:12 informs us; *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood.”* What forces then do we wrestle against?
2. Ephesians 6:10 tells us *“be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”* How do YOU answer this call to faithfulness each day?
3. How does Philippians 4:13 enable us in terms of our faith in Christ?

Tuesday: Ephesians 6:11-12; I Peter 5:8-9a

Know Your Enemy Is The Devil

4. In what way is *“putting on the whole armor of God”* to do battle with our enemy, the Devil, an act of faith on our part as believers?
5. Referencing Ephesians 6:12 what *“rulers of the darkness of this age”* and *“spiritual hosts of wickedness”* do you see the devil using to attack you?
6. I Peter 5:9a tells us we can resist the devil by being *“steadfast”* in WHAT?

Wednesday: Ephesians 6:13-17; Acts 28-16

Put On The Armor Of God

7. What are ALL the pieces of God’s armor according to Ephesians 6:14-17?
8. Of all the pieces of armor mentioned in Ephesians 6:14-17 are there any that you personally struggle to put on or perhaps leave off?

Thursday: Eph. 6:17b; Psalm 119:11; Eph. 6:18-20; Luke 18:1

Study And Memorize The Bible And Pray Always

9. Ephesians 6:17b introduces us to *“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”* How does our FAITH in the Word enable us to make it a weapon?
10. How would YOU explain the calling to prayer in Ephesians 6:18 to a new believer? What acts of your own faith would you share with them?
11. Why as *“ambassadors in chains”* to the gospel can we *“speak boldly”*?

Friday: Ephesians 6:21-24

Build Community For Support

12. In Ephesians 6:21-22 how is Paul’s faithfulness demonstrated by sending the report on his *“affairs”* through Tychicus to the Ephesians?
13. Paul sends a message of *“peace to the brethren”* in Ephesians 6:23. How would YOU react to this message of love upon receiving it?