

Discussion Questions

LifeGroups



Date: November 29, 2020
Sermon Series: Overcoming Evil: The Victory
Sermon Title: The Sword of the Spirit
Sermon Text: Ephesians 6:17

Bottom Line

The truth of God, in the hands of a life fully surrendered to God, is a powerful force in defeating the lies of the evil one.

Scripture

Ephesians 6:13-17 (NLT)

13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. 15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. 16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

2 Corinthians 3:3-4 (NLT)

3 We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. 4 We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.

Galatians 1:6-9 (ESV)

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there

are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

Gratitude, Prayer and Accountability

What happened this past week that you are grateful for? What would you like to prayer for today? How did God work in your life since the last time we were together? What is He doing through you as it relates to your Adopt 7?

Let's Start

What is your favorite book of the Bible? Why?

Let's Talk

1. This week, Pastor Dale talked about a number of different ways that the Word of God is used by the Spirit in our lives. What did he mention? How have you seen the Spirit use the Word of God in your life?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What do these verses have to say to us about how God uses His Word in our lives?
3. Pastor Dale talked a little bit about doubt this week. He said, "one of the reasons why so many young people don't return to church after leaving home is because they feel like their parents and the church never let them sound out their doubts or helped them overcome them." How would you help a student or adult who hears that the Bible is just a myth?*
4. Read Hebrews 4:12 and 2 Corinthians 3:3-4. What do these verses teach us about the Word of God?
5. Read Galatians 1:6-9. Pastor Dale spent a good deal of time talking "Progressive Christianity." He said that it required a shield and a sword to defend against it. Why is Progressive Christianity so insidious?*
6. Five marks of Progressive Christianity are:
 - a. A lowered view of the Bible
 - b. Feelings are emphasized over facts
 - c. Essential Christian doctrines are open for reinterpretation
 - d. Historic terms are redefined
 - e. The heart of the gospel shifts from sin and redemption to social justice

How have you seen this shift in our generation? What contributes to it?

7. The Good News brings us:

- a. Truth to tuck our lives into
- b. The righteousness of Christ, which gives us dignity and worth
- c. Peace that makes us ready for whatever life throws at us
- d. Faith to believe beyond our circumstances
- e. Hope to keep us encouraged and moving forward
- f. Truth to combat lies and set captives free

How has the Bible helped you to experience these six things?

Let's Act

Hebrews 12:2 tells us to "fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." As we close today, let's commit to spending each day this coming week in God's Word, and let's pray that we would keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

*For further study on this, Pastor Dale recommended the book, *Why Trust the Bible*, by Greg Gilbert, published by Crossway.

**For further study on this, Pastor Dale recommended the book, *Another Gospel*, by Alisa Childers.

Notes:
