



## Sermon Discussion Guide Stand Firm - James Junior November 24th, 2024

### Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
- As we are at the end of our series on Ephesians, what from the book has been sticking with you?
- Describe a time when you tried to stand firm against a continuous force (a rushing river or current, or a strong wind, perhaps). What stands out about that experience?
- How have dark spiritual forces factored into your faith and worldview? Has it been something of emphasis? Something that has been hard to believe in?

### Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
- Prior to digging into Ephesians 6, it may be helpful to build context into the biblical worldview of forces of spiritual darkness as a small group. Some suggestions:
  - This video from the Bible Project summarizes the topic well:  
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/divine-council/#fn-11>
  - For deeper discussion (including honest discussion of the challenge of believing in spiritual darkness, as well as a great linking of spiritual forces into Ephesians), Chapter 4 of this podcast is a great listen (So, from 49:49-61:26).  
<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/theme-god-e3-spiritual-warfare/>
- As Paul is wrapping up all he has mentioned in Ephesians, consider quickly reading some of his key points:
  - Ephesians 1: 18-20
  - Ephesians 2: 13-16
  - Ephesians 3: 6
  - Ephesians 4: 1-6



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- **Read Ephesians 6:10-20**
- What is communicated about what is wrong with the world, and with humans?
- What attributes are believers commanded to put on?
  - Which are more defensive? Which offensive?
- What does the text say about how we are to resist the spiritual forces of evil?
  - What is the role of believers in this resistance?
  - What is the role of God in this resistance?

### Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- What is the worldview of who our struggle is with as believers?
  - How would our worldview be different without an awareness or belief in the forces of evil and spiritual darkness?
- Think of the range of attributes of the armor.
  - How do they fit with what believers are called to in the name of unity in Ephesians 4:1-6?
  - How should we put on each these attributes collectively as the body of Christ?
- What would the opposite of these attributes?
  - How do the forces of darkness lure us into those opposites today?
  - How would those opposites lead us to become more divided?

### Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
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- Where do you find it difficult to see the true enemy as spiritual, rather than in other people?



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- Where are you weary in the face of the constant work of the evil one?
- Where do you need to put on more of the armor of God?
- How can we support one another as a small group in these areas of need in the days and weeks ahead?

Time of Prayer