

April 6th, 2025

Ephesians 6:10 - Be Strong in the Lord (Sermon Transcript)

Turn with me to Ephesians 6. Since January we've been memorizing the Armor of God. This is an intentional purpose for our church as we seek to just continue memorizing scripture. And I mentioned back then that we will be preaching through the armor of God at some point this year.

And today is that day. We are gonna spend the next two months walking through Ephesians six. 10 through 20 and diving deeper into the verses that we are memorizing, and not just memorizing them to quote 'em, but knowing them deeply and being able to use them as we seek to fight in the Christian life and the journey that God's placed us on my prayer through all of this.

Is that we will, that the Holy Spirit through the preaching of his word, will move us to a posture of, to be active in this fight. Not passive active in this spiritual warfare. Not just sitting back and waiting, but to take it seriously. To be on guard, ready to go, ready to fight sin and temptation.

I want us to think of it this way. In the military uses. What's known as DEF Con or Defense Condition, there are five levels. All right? And if you know anything about this, there's a level of seriousness as it that lo, that number gets a little lower. Our military folks understand this. DEF Con five is the least severe.

It's peacetime conditions. You got your armored up, you're ready to go. But it's not, the war is not immediate, and it'll just as things escalate in different parts, they'll, it'll go down. Okay. To DEFCON one, this means we go from least severe peacetime conditions to nuclear war is imminent.

We've never been at DEFCON one. All right? Praise the Lord for that. But it shows the seriousness of it. If you're at DEF Con one, you are ready to go right now because war is happening. The Armor of God is a call for the Christian to stop living the Christian life at Def Con level five, like it's peace time.

I gotta just sit back and, oh, there's no war. Everything's fine. There is no peace because of sin. There's coming a day when there will be peace. But right now we are at war. We're to live our lives in a, with a severe threat of spiritual war. And it's not just, it could happen. What we know from the armor of God is that it is happening.



We don't wrestle against flesh and blood. We are fighting right now in a spiritual warfare. There is an urgency in this text. And so over the next two months, as we look through this passage and we look at the different pieces of the armor, you can see even in the graphic, we. Try to just maybe help that visually for you, that we leave here equipped by a good and mighty and victorious king.

We don't just sit back on the couch waiting. Scripture calls us to fight and to fight knowing we have victory. And Paul gives us this message in Ephesians chapter six, because I think our natural tendency is complacency. I think our natural tendency is just. Maybe even to lean into our own strength, but we're not strong as we'll see today.

All of our lives must be lived in the strength of our victorious savior, Jesus Christ, and his power alone. Let's read the Armor of God this morning from Ephesians six each week. In an effort to continue just soaking in these verses, we are going to me, we're going to read, I'm gonna read all of these verses every week, six, 10 through 20, every Sunday.

We're gonna read it together. Okay? I'll read it out loud. You read it to yourself here in your chair as a understanding that, hey,

we got to hold this memo, this verse passage of scripture to hearts. So let's read these verses together this morning, I've. I misplaced them in my Bible. There we go. I have found them. All right, here we go. Ephesians six, 10 through 20. Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil 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 and heavenly places. Therefore, 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, stand there for having fastened on the belt of truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness.

And as shoes for your Feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace in all circumstances, take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the spirit with all prayer and supplication.

To that end, to keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints and also for me. That words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly



to proclaim the mystery of the gospel for which I'm an ambassador in charge, that I may declare it boldly as I ought to speak. This is the word of the Lord.

Father, open our eyes to behold the wonderful truth from your word. Help us to see the urgency of this text. And to see your power on display through us and in us this morning. In your name we pray, amen. I love. Let's pull up verse 10 here. I love this word finally. All right. When we get into a text of scripture, we're gonna get, therefore next week, which, okay, that's my favorite one.

But we get finally here. Circle that word finally in your Bible. Then maybe draw an arrow backwards. This is not Paul saying, all right. Finally sermon's over. It's almost lunchtime. If it was in today's church, when the preacher says, finally, you know what usually happens? It is over, but this is not what the Apostle Paul intends for this passage to be.

It's not just landing the plane, it's not gearing our hearts for lunchtime. It's gearing our hearts for war. And that word finally is very specific 'cause it's going to look back on what's just been said, the entire book of Ephesians. Paul wrote the book of Ephesians in 80 62. To the church in Ephesus.

Here's a map of Ephesus. I'm gonna come over here and show you. Okay, here's Ephesus, the big words. Okay, everybody see that in the back? Can you guys say Ephesus? Ephesus. There we go. All right. You'll see Jerusalem down here in the bottom right of the corner. If you're looking at that tv, you're on your own.

Okay. Ephesus up there. So Paul has spent some time in Jerusalem. He has planted a church in Ephesus, and now he's all the way in the top left corner in Rome. He writes to this church some incredible truths in this whole book. Ephesians is one of my favorite books in the entire Bible because it's divided perfectly in the first three chapters.

Ephesians one, two, and three. We get to see doctrine. God is telling us all about who he is and the first. Couple of verses of chapter one. We get to see that all that God has done for our salvation, the whole package, eternity, past, present, and future, that our God has this plan of salvation mapped out, ready to go.

In chapter two, we see for by grace we are saved through faith, not of our works, but because of Jesus, we have been saved. He's created us to his workmanship. This is Ephesians chapter two, knowing that we were once enemies to God, but now we are his sons and daughters. Through Jesus, chapter three talks to us about the greatness of the gospel.



It's not just for Jesus, it's for everybody. That this mystery is now been revealed through Jesus Chapters one, two, and three, all about this incredible gospel doctrine. But then we get to chapter four, and at the beginning of chapter four, there's another transition word that starts off this passage that shows us, Hey, you can have this great theology, high theology.

You can know all the things about Jesus, but it has to be put into practice. So chapters one through three is doctrine. Chapters four through six is how we live out that doctrine in practice as humans, no matter where we are in the world. And so we get into chapter four and he says. Walk according to your salvation.

We see some instructions to the church on how we are to live the purpose of the church in chapter four, that we are to live in the light of all that Christ has done for us. We get the chapter five and those passages of scripture that we looked at the last couple of weeks where how do we relate to one another?

Walking in love and kindness and grace, speaking the truth in love. How do we submit to one another in Christlike love? The true Christian described in Ephesians chapter one through three is the one who lives the faithful life of chapter four and six. Both are needed. If you have great theology, but you are not living like Christ, then you're missing the point of the theology.

If you have this life, but you have no theology, then you're missing the importance of the theology. The two work together like this cannot separate the two. This is how the Christian life is to live Christ-like practice that's grounded in deep doctrinal truth. And so we get to Ephesians chapter six, verse 10.

Paul has said all of this. He says, finally, in light of all that God's done for you and in light. Of the what? The calling to Christian maturity, the plan that he's given to you to live in what he has done for you. Finally, be strong in the Lord. See chapter six, verse 10 through 20 is not necessarily a conclusion to a letter.

Paul's about to wrap up this letter. It's not a conclusion. It's actually a call to action. Do you get newsletters in your email like all the time? They come at three in the morning. I don't know why that is. And you read this newsletter and at the bottom, usually there is a call to action.

You've read all this. Now purchase this for 10 99 or whatever it is. Okay, subscribe here, go to this. There's a call to action that this thing that the people who write this newsletter want you to do. They, it's big, it's bold. This is what Ephesians six 10 through 20 is. It's a call to action. Everything we've said, everything you've read now.



Let's put it to use. Do this. Put on the armor of God. Be strong in the Lord, and what a great illustration that the Apostle Paul gives us. No matter what day and age you live in this illustration, this image of a soldier armed up is very relatable. Even though he's giving a description of a military that's no longer around.

In this kind of form, and we think of military different with guns and different protections, but it's still helpful and very understandable. Now. I love that, how this is playing out. Okay. Because when Paul wrote this letter, if we go back to the map, he is writing this letter from a jail cell up in Rome.

It's towards the very end of his life to a church. Here in Ephesus that he will never see again. Now, how in the world that letter got from there to there 2000 little, almost 2000 years ago? I don't understand. Like we sent a text message and it's there. Someone took a letter that's in the Bible and took it all the way over back to the church Ephesus, which is super cool to me.

But Paul, as he's writing this letter, he's in a jail cell now. Chris Saint, our director of security here at Grace Life, he's not here today because he spent the last two weeks in Rome with his brother who's stationed over there. And so I told Chris, you gotta go see all these sites. Okay? I'm gonna be super jealous and I'll ask for forgiveness about that.

Okay? 'cause I've always wanted to go over there and so Chris has been sending me pictures. Yeah, and he sent me this picture and if you are friends with him on Facebook, you've seen these pictures. This is the coolest one, I think, out of all of 'em. The cossum, all of it. It's this picture here. This picture we don't know for sure, but we're pretty sure okay from a historical standpoint that this prison or one very like it is where the Apostle Paul was held prisoner in Rome Now.

I text Chris and said, you're in the room where Paul likely sat down with very little light and said, be strong finely brothers. Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. I wonder if Paul is just sitting there holy Spirit, how do you want me to close out this book? And here comes a Roman guard geared up and Paul's I just know exactly how to wrap this book up. For the church in Ephesus, for the people in Rome for early church history, this image is very relatable. These are soldiers that they would see on the sidewalk on the way to the grocery store. Just they would understand this imagery, this picture of a soldier.

They understood the power that's on display. They understood. What this soldier represented, Rome was powerful. A church of Ephesus in about 128 BC Rome came through, conquered Ephesus and changed the whole dynamic. So this church is



very familiar with the power that's on display with the Roman army. And what Paul is saying has, Hey, you think Rome is strong?

Let me tell you about the kingdom of God. 'cause the Kingdom of God will outlast any Rome. Any power because there's no power like the kingdom of God and the Savior who reigns as the eternal king. There's no reason to be threatened by a man in a uniform. We're not at war with flesh and blood. We're at war.

A spiritual warfare, 400 years ago, they would've used the word principalities. Today we use the word rulers. Okay, so Paul says, be strong in the Lord. And in the strength of his might. Lemme share three truths from Ephesians six 10. We're just gonna look at verse 10 today. Three truths and how it applies.

These truths apply to our lives today. First is we are commanded to be strong and prepare for battle. Let's say be strong, someone say, be strong for me. Be strong. Be strong. We read this verse and finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. I don't think this is how this verse is intended to be read.

This is a rally cry, right? Like armies, baseball teams, they'll huddle up and say, game time, right? It's a rally cry. Be strong in the Lord. Get that weak language outta here. Be strong. Jesus died for you. He's conquered everything for you. He's giving you a life that you can live out abundantly in his power.

Be strong in the Lord. No, be strong is what Paul is trying to help us see. It's a rallying cry from our king. In fact, it's a command from our king. You could read this with an exclamation point. In fact, I don't even know why the translators didn't do that. 'cause there should be an exclamation point at the end of verse 10.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might is a command given to us by our king. And yet here's the reality. This is a command. That many of us struggle with because of our tendency to live in complacency. Jesus says to his disciples in my study I, there was this article that was talking about like the Paul's two Manly here. Alright. Jesus was more, he's just a softer, gentler, okay. Here's what Jesus says in Luke 1235. Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning Jesus under. Hey, you don't sit back in comp complacency.

Stay dressed for action. We're at def con level one here. Jesus is saying you, you don't prepare for nuclear war by just, you know what? I don't need all this right now. I'll put it on when it's ready. I'm ready to go. No. Stay dressed for action. There's no room for complacency in the Christian life.



You wanna know why? Here's what Peter says in one Peter five, eight. Be sober minded for our football player. This is clear head, full heart. Okay, clear head here. Be sober minded. Be watchful. Why? Because your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. You wanna know why there's no room for complacency in the Christian life?

You know why? There's no room to just sit back and say, life is fine. It's good. I'm a good person. I don't need to prepare. I, I know some things about the Bible. It's fine. I know where I'm going. That's not the language of scripture because. The authors of scripture, the people following Jesus knew that our enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour.

And you know who gets devoured by lions, the complacent ones in the herd, the ones who just sit back and think it's okay to be alone. It's okay to just not keep my head up. And if our weak. People you think this is something we should take seriously? Our enemy wants to take us out. He wants to take your kids out.

He has no desire to see you thrive. He wants to destroy you. And just like a lion, I think our enemy goes after easy targets. The ones who aren't just for action. The ones who sit back and say, yeah, I'll just go to church every once in a while. It's fine. I don't need life groups. I don't need people in my life to help me in my you know what?

I could do this on my own. I know what I'm doing.

My concern is that some of you are easy targets

that we've just given over, like just, it's okay. We have not taken the seriousness of this text to heart that we've been consumed by just life in this world instead of being consumed by a life lived in Jesus. Where's your heart right now? Complacency or an obedience to this command to be strong. You think about a battle.

Okay. Imagine being a soldier just out and about and you know what, I know we're in the middle of it, but I'm just gonna sit back and relax here. I'm gonna take it easy. I know the war's going around, but I'm just gonna sit back and be fine. No soldier. If a soldier said that, I think they're just giving up.

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have we given up this fight? Have we become complacent? So complacent that we're just like, I, it's fine. Someone else can fight this battle. And here's why. I think



we've become complacent. We've become complacent because a lot of us think we're strong enough. Here's what I love about these verses.

We're gonna put up verse 10 again. Finally. Actually, you should have it memorized. We don't even have to put it up, right? But that's, it's a different sermon series here. Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. In the Lord alone, we find the source of our strength. Someone say In the Lord, in the Lord.

There is a, this is a position here that our power be strong, is not in us, it's in the Lord. This language here is actually, it's a verb and it's in a passive voice, meaning it's indicating that the subject is receiving the action rather than performing it. This is beautiful here. Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

Here's an example of this. Okay? If I'm in handcuffs, which would be not good, okay, something's gone wrong, just heads up, okay, I'm in handcuffs. And of course they found me to be innocent of whatever it was. Okay? And the police officer comes with his key lets me go and says, Hey, be free. He has performed this for me.

Now I get to live in the freedom that's been given to me. This is what Paul is saying here in Ephesians chapter six. Hey, be strong and the strength that's been given to you, it's not your own strength, it's my strength. You get to be strong in it. Just live in it. You've been given the strength that you need to fight the battle against sin and temptation because Jesus, as we'll see here in just a little bit, has all the strength needed.

We are commanded to receive the strength of Jesus, not to be strong in our own strength and complacency often says I'm strong enough. I think a lot of guys, we struggle with this. I got this. I'll pick myself up by my bootstraps. I'm fine. I can carry this load. And throughout scripture we say no. Let someone else help bear that burden with you.

You are weak and that's okay because in our weakness, we rely on the strength of the one whose sources our strength. I

we're commanded to live in the strength of Jesus because Jesus knows, as he says in John 15, five, to his disciples, I'm the vine. You are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he, it is that bears much fruit for apart from me. You can do nothing.

Is Jesus being mean here? Oh, you can't do anything. Oh, who do you think you are? You can't do anything. This is not meanness coming from Jesus. It's kindness in helping us see how much we need him.



In the Lord alone, we find the source of our strength,

which means you cannot fight your spiritual warfare against pride, greed, lust, bitterness, anger. Lemme keep going through the list, okay? You cannot fight that fight in your own strength. Lemme put a bunch of parameters around my life and I'll be fine. No. Isn't it amazing how when you put some boundaries around certain areas you're struggling, how the devil will just sneak in?

There's a story about this monk who struggled with lust and pride, and so he went and hid in a cave. I've shared this story with you. Turned the lights off and lived in this cave. And you know what he says afterwards? You can't escape it. That's what it looks like to live in your own strength. Paul says in two Corinthians 12, eight through 10, listen to these words that Paul is saying.

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. We don't even know what it is, but the Lord's Peter. Or pause pleading with the Lord here. Take it away. But the Lord said to Paul, my grace is sufficient for you. Do we? Do we believe that? Amen. My grace, the grace of Jesus is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

Paul says, therefore, I'll boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses. So that the power of Christ may rest upon me for the sake of Christ, then I am content with weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. That is counter-cultural. No one walks around and says, look how weak I am.

I've been at churches where they had a strength and power team. Okay, have you been to a church service like that? Some muscle men, they come in, they're like, look at this. No church is ever going in. Look at all these guys that can't break a brick with their bare hands. Look how weak they are. We don't celebrate weakness, but Paul's saying, I'm gonna boast in it.

'cause when I'm weak, I'm strong because Jesus gives me strength that I need. Only Jesus is the source of our strength. So here's what we do. We understand this and we believe this, and yet we'll still leave here today and say, I'm gonna conquer this sin on my own. We try self-discipline without power, without prayer, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

One Corinthians 10, 12, just a few verses we, before we read from those verses about the Lord's Supper. Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. You wanna stand on your own two feet, Christian, okay? But you will fall. Do you



wanna stand on the finished work of Jesus? Okay? ' cause you won't fall when you stand in his strength.

Self-discipline without prayer or the Holy Spirit is living life in your own strength. What about using human wisdom like we talked about last week? I'll be smart in my own wisdom, I'll be fine. I'll figure this out on my own. Have you ever dealt with something with sin? Temptation, I'll deal with this on my own.

Has it ever worked out? It's often, we just, we can't escape it.

We cannot fight a spiritual battle in our own strength. Muhammad Ali, the boxer was on a airplane once getting ready to take off, and the flight attendant came up to him and said, Mr. Ali, I need you to put your seatbelt on. Continued on, came back, didn't put it on. Mr. Ali, I need you to put your seatbelt on.

Came back. Still hadn't put it on. She said, Mr. Ali, we're about to take off. I need you to put your seatbelt on. Muhammad Ali looked at her and said, Superman, don't need no seatbelt. His exact words. And for those of you that remember his heyday, right? Stewardess looked at him and said, Superman didn't need an airplane either.

That is often how we live the Christian life. I'm fine. How much do we need? Jesus? Every day we wake up, there's new morning mercies. Why? Because the Lord knows we're in a battle. For those of you that are teenagers, my boys here's what Jesus does. Every morning there's a new supply job ready for you in the battlefield filled with everything you need.

And there's no one else you have to fight it for. It's yours. New morning mercies. Every day we can only fight our sin and temptation. If the Lord gives us his strength, and guess what He absolutely does. Psalm 29 11, may the Lord give strength to his people. May the Lord bless his people with peace is the prayer.

Lord, give the strength to your people. And Psalm 1839 says, for you equipped me with strength for the battle you made, those who rise against me, sink under me, you have equipped me with strength. For the battle. This is what Jesus has done for us. His strength. It's not, Hey, you need to be strong. Be strong in the Lord.

It's his strength. One of the things I love about the Roman army, okay, I'm gonna go get another picture here. This picture shows just as a modern day picture of it. What the. The uniform, the armor would look like for them. Imagine being a little village maybe with some wooden swords, and you see a legion of these guys come into town.



You think that little village is yeah, we got this. Look how the formation there. It. The brilliance of their warfare. Even when they had the arrows, you know what those shields did? This is a spoiler for a sermon. In a couple weeks, they would huddle up together, shield up, protected. Look at this.

Now here's the crazy part about this. These men fighting were provided this armor. They didn't have to go to their local armory and buy it. Rome sourced everything they needed to win this victory. The power did not come from the men, it came from Rome, and that's what motivated them in their fight. We've got the power of Rome behind us.

This town and Ephesus, when they went down, you know what they, they knew they were cities and countries knew they were defeated when Rome showed up. But unlike Rome. The king of Jesus when he shows up, he never loses, always victorious. He who is armed with the power of God will not tremble at the noise raised by the world.

He who is armed with the power of God will not tremble at the noise raised by the world. Unfortunately. I think we've got the roles reversed. Did you see what the news said? Did you hear what I mean? Colorado's doing. I got pastor friends in Colorado that I know are actively thinking through what it looks like for them now to possibly face jail time due to speaking the truth of God's word.

This is what they're thinking through here. Okay?

But they're not trembling at the noise of the world. Why? Because they got the kingdom of God on their side. They are powered and sourced by the king who holds all things in his hands. We've got Jesus on our side. Okay, I'm gonna say that one more time. I'm gonna need a little bit more amens after that.

Okay. We've got Jesus on our side. Yes. One Samuel 17. Israel is fighting against the Philistines. Philistines send out this champion. His name is Goliath. All of Israel is oh no, we can't defeat him, and they're hiding. Here comes David. He's not strong. He, in fact, the text is telling us everything. He's how weak he shouldn't be doing.

He puts on the king's armor. It's too big for him. He says, I don't need it. All right. And David comes out. With a slingshot and a few rocks, and here's what it says. And the Philistine said to David, this is Goliath. Can you hear this giant man laughing when he sees a little kid here? Am I a dog that you come to me with?

Sticks And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David. Come to me or come at me, bro. Okay. In today's language, and I'll give your flesh to



the birds of the air and to the beast of the field. Lia, like we, oh, this is gonna be easy done. Here's what David says. You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin.

You're throwing everything at me. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day, the Lord's gonna deliver you into my hand and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I'll give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air into the wild beast of the earth, and that all the earth may know that there's a God in Israel and that all the assembly may know that the Lord saves, not with sword and spear.

For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands. You've got everything else, but I've got Jesus is what David is saying for us. But here's the temptation, and I'm not the first preacher to say this. You're not David here. We think we could stand up and sling. We are. We are more like the Israelites hiding by behind the rocks in fear and trembling David, whom Jesus' bloodline would, who would come from is the one who has defeated sin and death for us.

He does not need all the weapons of the world. He has all the power needed to defeat. Our enemy, and this is the life we live in. Christ, knowing that the victory has been secured by Jesus because why is the Jesus? Why is Jesus the source of our strength? Jesus, and the strength of his might is our victorious king.

Jesus has already won. He's already won.

This Roman soldier picture in Ephesians chapter six is an image very near and dear to the early church ' cause it's these soldiers in this armor that led Jesus on a cross up a hill, nailed his hands and feet to a wooden Roman crucifixion cross.

Slammed him into the grounds with a crown of thorns, beat him and whipped him. It was Rome's way of saying, we are in charge. No one has the power like we do. And here is Jesus def. Looking like he's defeated on a cross.

But the story doesn't end there. They placed his body on a, in a tomb, a borrowed tomb. After he yelled it is finished, placed his body in a tomb, and then they put two Roman soldiers outside of the tomb. Closed it up.

You know what I think scripture tells us when I read these verses, I honestly think Rome was scared. No one else would get to Roman guards. No one else would leave Roman Centurion saying, surely that man is the son of God.



And those two Roman soldiers, they ran away in fear when Jesus came bursting out of the grave conquering death and sin. Be strong in the Lord and in his strength and in his might the same strength and the same might that conquered death and sin for us. That's the strength we live in. And if you're here today and you've never placed your faith in Jesus Christ, you are in a losing battle here.

Jesus is the victorious king who will save you from your sin, who will give you new life, give you victory and eternal life. And by faith, if you believe in him, Jesus will save you from your, he will change and transform your heart. It's like the little brother who steps in and tries in a, who's in the middle of the fight.

I'm an older brother, seeing a little brother get into a fight. It is my response would be to step in and beat up the bully. Jesus has done this for us. He has stepped in and he ended it

for us. And when he conquered sin and death, when he rose out of the grave, three days later, he displayed in all of his glory. No one is more powerful than me.

My sin is as great, but his mercy is more praise the Lord, what you're going through in life. Jesus is creator. I know not only it's not just sin and temptation. We're battling the effects of living in a fallen world and how that changes our heart and takes our eyes off of Jesus and like Peter on the water is stormy.

But look up, look to your victorious king because one Corinthians one, as Chris read last week, for the foolishness of God is wiser than men. And the weakness of God is stronger than men. Meaning if God had a weakness, he would still be more powerful than us, but yet our God has no weaknesses. Like any fight, spiritual warfare is exhausting.

It's ongoing, but Jesus is our hope. We have a victorious king. And here's the good news. One day our fight's gonna be over.

One day we're gonna wake up in heaven and there will be no more war. It'll be peace time,

but that's in the future. But for now, Christ is with us in the fight. He is with us right now in this fight.

We are not a defeated people. We are gospel champions through Jesus Christ. We are gospel champions through him who loved us. We fight because we know the battle has already been won. Last week, the team I coached, we were whipping the mess out of another team big time. All right. Don't ask me about yesterday's game.



It's a different story. Okay. Last week we were up big, and so we have this run rule. You can only score six runs in an inning. It keeps the game going and it just allows movement. But eventually you get to a point where there's just time's up and the other team gets a chance to fight or play hit, and they can't beat you.

And so in these moments, this is when I send out kids into play in positions so they can continue to develop and learn and grow, knowing that they're gonna mess up, but we can't lose. And so I put in a pitcher who hadn't pitched before, but I needed him to get these game reps. And he went in and he struggled.

They scored a couple runs and he's this the whole time. Frustrated, angry in the huddle. After the game, after we still whipped them, I came alongside 'em and said, Hey, lift your head up. I didn't put you in a situation where you could lose. I put you there knowing we were already gonna win.

This is what Jesus has said to us. It's a blowout. Satan knows it time's running out. Jesus hasn't put us in a situation where we can lose. We're not defeated Christian Head up, look up our savior reigns, and one day we're gonna be around his throne when he takes Satan and throws him into the lake of fire for all of eternity.

And we're gonna be going like this the whole time because Jesus is our victorious king. And it's why Paul reminds us in Romans eight. What shall we say to all these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect. It is God who justifies, who is to condemn Christ. Jesus is the one who died more than that. Who has raised, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ, shall tribulation Anybody going through tribulation about distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

As it is written for your sake, we are being killed all the day long. We are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. No. In all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us for I am sure of this. Sure. Confident, more confident in Christ than I am confident in the sun coming up tomorrow morning.

That neither death nor life nor angels nor rulers. Oh, interesting. Where have we read that before? Nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor death, nor anything else in all of creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Church. Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

