



This booklet is a tool to help you stay on track with our whole church as we engage with our 40 Days of Spiritual Warfare. We will do 6 devotions a week, taking Sunday off. If you get behind, don't play the game of "catch up". If you miss a day or few, just pick up on the correct day to get on track.

Thank you for joining us during this series and thank you to Ruth Baer, Emilie Smithback, Jason Gusso, Ray Koens, Jason Larson, Nate Timmermans, and Paul Runia for sharing your reflections.

These devotional reflections were created by the Elders of Faith United. You can take just a few minutes, or you can take 30 minutes depending on the space you want to create.

These daily verses will prepare our hearts and thoughts for the sermon that is coming up each week.

These are meant to be a blessing, not a burden. Spiritual disciplines can guide us into deeper connection with God or become chains of "have-tos" that rob us of joy. When you want to and choose to spend time with God it becomes a wonderful blessing.

Elements of a Devotional Time

PRAY

Start your time with prayer, inviting God to bring wisdom from above. Prayer is the primary source for preparing the mind and heart for engaging with God's Word.

READ

Find the Daily Devotion that is assigned for today's reading. If you miss a day, just pick up on the one set for today. Don't get caught under the weight of playing catch up.

REFLECT

Take a moment to meditate on the truths revealed. Underline or highlight key ideas that stand out to you. The goal is to sit and listen.

RESPOND

If you like to journal you can take a few minutes to process. Think through a potential action step for your day. Then close in prayer.

THE ENEMY - Ephesians 6:10-12, Week 1, **SEPT 30**

Read

John 8:44 *“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”*

Reflect

Jesus is talking to the Jews who think Abraham is their father, but Jesus describes their real father, the devil, as one who does not stand in truth. What does this verse reveal about our enemy?

Respond

THE ENEMY - Ephesians 6:10-12, Week 1, **OCT 1**

Read

1 Thessalonians 2:18 *“because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.”*

Reflect

Paul, Silas, and Timothy wanted to see the believers in the church at Thessalonica, but he said that Satan hindered them, blocked them, kept them from seeing them. Have you ever experienced a time when choosing to obey God, you felt hindered by Satan?

Respond

THE ENEMY - Ephesians 6:10-12, Week 1, **OCT 2**

Read

Matthew 4:1–3 *“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came...”*

Reflect

Even Jesus had to face temptation from the devil, and He was the Son of God! This time the tempter, the devil, commanded him to tell the stones to become bread if he was truly the Son of God. That would satisfy his hunger, said the liar. In what ways does the liar, the devil, tempt you? What can you do?

Respond

THE ENEMY - Ephesians 6:10-12, Week 1, **OCT 3**

Read

2 Corinthians 11:14 "And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."

Reflect

In context, unlike "false apostles," Paul preached the gospel freely without wages. He described these false apostles as deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. Paul likens this as Satan disguising himself as an angel of light. How do you recognize false teachers, or false teaching?

Respond

THE ENEMY - Ephesians 6:10-12, Week 1, **OCT 4**

Read

1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

Reflect

This is instruction by Peter to those who in humility cast their anxiety on Jesus because he cares for us! The devil who does not care for you is actually trying to destroy your sense of wellbeing. How do you feel about that?

Respond

THE ENEMY - Ephesians 6:10-12, Week 1, **OCT 5**

Read

Revelation 12:9 "And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."

Reflect

Knowing that Satan, the deceiver, and his demons are thrown out of heaven helps us to see that the Lord wins the battle, through salvation found in Jesus Christ alone. How does this help you during the difficult encounters with the devil's schemes?

Respond

THE TRUTH – Ephesians 6:14 Week 2, **OCT 7**

Read

1 Peter 1:13 “Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Reflect

It is easy to become focused on earthly distractions. Keep your mind focused on the truth: Jesus is coming back! What can you do to be mentally alert, disciplined, and focused on living for Christ as you wait for His return?

Respond

THE TRUTH – Ephesians 6:14 Week 2, **OCT 8**

Read

John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Reflect

Are you feeling overwhelmed with life? Uncertain about the future? Confused about the many messages coming from this world? Remember that Jesus is the way to the Father and eternal life. He is the Truth, the reality of all of God's promises.

Respond

THE TRUTH – Ephesians 6:14 Week 2, **OCT 9**

Read

Romans 13:14 “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”

Reflect

How do we clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ? First, try to avoid situations that give your sinful desires opportunities to lead you into sin. Secondly, with the help of the Holy Spirit, display the qualities that Jesus showed while he was here on earth (love, humility, truth, and service.) How can you react like Christ would when faced with difficult situations?

Respond

THE TRUTH – Ephesians 6:14 Week 2, **OCT 10**

Read

Psalm 119:11 "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

Reflect

Keeping God's Word in your heart is a deterrent to sin. This alone should inspire you to memorize Scripture. But memorization alone will not keep you from sin; you must put God's Word to work in your life. How do you plan to make Scripture a vital guide to everything you do?

Respond

THE TRUTH – Ephesians 6:14 Week 2, **OCT 11**

Read

Ephesians 4:25–27 "Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger and give no opportunity to the devil."

Reflect

Lying to others creates conflict and tears down relationships. As a believer, you should strive to always tell the truth in love. Ask the Holy Spirit to you help you be a person of integrity

Respond

THE TRUTH – Ephesians 6:14 Week 2, **OCT 12**

Read

Psalm 139:23–24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me and lead me in the way everlasting!"

Reflect

Ask God to search for sin in your life and to point it out, just as David does here in this psalm. When God reveals areas of sin to you, repent and be forgiven. As you make this verse your prayer, you will continue God's "way everlasting".

Respond

RIGHTEOUSNESS – Ephesians 6:14, Week 3, **OCT 14**

Read

1 John 2:1 “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

Reflect

We are all hopeless sinners. However, as God’s children, we can stand blameless before the Lord if we confess our sins and accept Jesus Christ as our savior. Praise The Lord!

Respond

RIGHTEOUSNESS – Ephesians 6:14, Week 3, **OCT 15**

Read

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Reflect

We can only be cleansed of our sins and become truly righteous in the sight of God through confession of our sinfulness and acceptance of Jesus Christ and his death on the cross on our behalf.

Respond

RIGHTEOUSNESS – Ephesians 6:14, Week 3, **OCT 16**

Read

Philippians 3:9 “not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—”

Reflect

No human being - other than Jesus - can keep the law as written in Old Testament times. By the standard of the law, we are doomed to fail. However, the good news is that God sent his son to live by example and die a horrific death on our behalf, and in our place.

Respond

RIGHTEOUSNESS – Ephesians 6:14, Week 3, **OCT 17**

Read

1 Peter 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil”

Reflect

The Lord loves each of us and seeks us individually. He knows the number of hairs on our head and hears our prayers and pleas. However, the Lord hates sin. He gave us His Son as our path to righteousness and glory.

Respond

RIGHTEOUSNESS – Ephesians 6:14, Week 3, **OCT 18**

Read

Psalms 23:3 “He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

Reflect

The Lord desires a personal relationship with each of us. He waits patiently for us to slow down and fix our eyes on him. He loves us and wants what’s best for us.

Respond

RIGHTEOUSNESS – Ephesians 6:14, Week 3, **OCT 19**

Read

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

Reflect

As Jesus followers, we are called to act like Jesus in living our lives. Seek righteousness. In God’s way, and in God’s timing, we will be made complete.

Respond

PEACE – Ephesians 6:15, Week 4, **OCT 21**

Read

ROMANS 5:1 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Reflect

Some think that if I am a good person and do the right things God will reward me and I will be in heaven when I die. Doing good does not always give us peace however and God’s word states neither will it be the way to heaven. Being “justified by faith”, believing the word of God and having that personal relationship with Him will bring us eternal life with our Savior.

Respond

PEACE – Ephesians 6:15, Week 4, **OCT 22**

Read

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

Reflect

Our world today is in such turmoil. It leads us to fear what lies ahead and can cause much anxiety. God tells us that this world is not where we can find lasting peace, but only in and through Him and that peace can then come our way. Pray for the Lord to grant you that peace.

Respond

PEACE – Ephesians 6:15, Week 4, **OCT 23**

Read

John 16:33 “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Reflect

Our faith does not give us a free pass to avoid trials and tribulations. In fact it may be the opposite. Our faith in God does however give us the certainty that He is greater than the world and He will help us overcome those pains that will come our way.

Respond

PEACE – Ephesians 6:15, Week 4, **OCT 24**

Read

Philippians 4:7 “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Reflect

As humans it is not possible for us to understand the “mind of God”. His Word gives us the guidance to live by. Our faith in Jesus as our redeemer gives us the peace we need while we are here on earth. One day we will have greater knowledge of the workings of our Lord, but we can rest assured that even today God will protect and guide you.

Respond

PEACE – Ephesians 6:15, Week 4, **OCT 25**

Read

Isaiah 26:3 “You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.”

Reflect

Our minds tend to wander. We are easily strayed and tempted by the world around us. We as Christians have the peace when we focus on God and trust his Word.

Respond

PEACE – Ephesians 6:15, Week 4, **OCT 26**

Read

Colossians 3:15 “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.”

Reflect

We must submit fully to God. We no longer “own” our bodies, our hearts or our mind. They belong to Him. As a believer we are part of the larger body of Christ’s followers, surrendering our hearts to Him. He will lead his eternal Church in peace.

Respond

FAITH – Ephesians 6:16, Week 5, **OCT 28**

Read

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Reflect

This is the kind of faith that God desires from us. Not just a blind leap or merely hoping for something. But banking our lives on Him. Trusting and knowing and believing in what is to come.

Respond

FAITH – Ephesians 6:16, Week 5, **OCT 29**

Read

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Reflect

We have been crucified with Christ. Our old selves have died. Our lives are totally different. We are entirely new.

Respond

FAITH – Ephesians 6:16, Week 5, **OCT 30**

Read

2 Corinthians 5:7 “for we walk by faith, not by sight.”

Reflect

Our human eyes and desires can deceive us and leave us empty. So we strive to live by faith in Him. Even when we don't understand or have doubts.

Respond

FAITH – Ephesians 6:16, Week 5, **OCT 31**

Read

1 John 5:4 “For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”

Reflect

We as believers in Christ Jesus, by our faith in Him, are overcomers. Believers are to overcome evil with good. God’s Spirit lives within us to provide power over the battles of this world.

Respond

FAITH – Ephesians 6:16, Week 5, **NOV 1**

Read

Romans 10:17 “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ

Reflect

One can come to faith only through hearing the gospel, and the specific message that must be heard is the word of Christ, that is, the good news about Jesus Christ as the crucified and risen Savior.”

Respond

FAITH – Ephesians 6:16, Week 5, **NOV 2**

Read

Hebrews 12:2 “looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Reflect

Circumstances may come and go. Certain things may not always go the way you want them to. But when our focus is on Jesus, we can rise above our circumstances and find peace in Him.

Respond

SALVATION – Ephesians 6:17, Week 6, **NOV 4**

Read

Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Reflect

This verse is the very foundation of our Christian faith and what we believe. Jesus is the ONLY path to salvation. Many religions have many gods and have multiple pathways to salvation. Jesus is quoted in John 14:6 saying “I AM THE WAY”. This is the infallible verse that is at the core of our faith and where we find our hope.

Respond

SALVATION – Ephesians 6:17, Week 6, **NOV 5**

Read

John 6:44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.”

Reflect

Jesus is making it clear that God, not man, is the key player in our salvation. God is always there with open arms waiting for us, and it is only by the nudging of the Holy Spirit that we open our hearts to have that relationship with his perfect son, Jesus.

Respond

SALVATION – Ephesians 6:17, Week 6, **NOV 6**

Read

Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,”

Reflect

Being a good person alone does not grant us salvation. Believing in Jesus Christ and following him is the only road. This reminds me of the chicken and the egg debate, but we know without a doubt which one comes first. Following Jesus and having faith in him first and foremost will make us want to be more Christlike and do good works to serve our fellow man.

Respond

SALVATION – Ephesians 6:17, Week 6, **NOV 7**

Read

Titus 3:5 “he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,”

Reflect

A summary of the work and perfect design of the Holy Trinity. It was God who sent his perfect Son to die on the cross so we could be saved. It is God who uses the Holy Spirit to work in us and give us that avenue that we might receive this perfect gift by believing and following Jesus.

Respond

SALVATION – Ephesians 6:17, Week 6, **NOV 8**

Read

Romans 10:9 “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Reflect

To receive God’s perfect gift of an eternal life with Jesus, it is as simple as believing. If we open our hearts and choose to believe, God through his Holy Spirit will take care of the rest. As Christians we are far from perfect, but we live in Faith, not fear, trusting the promise God has made multiple times in his perfect book.

Respond

SALVATION – Ephesians 6:17, Week 6, **NOV 9**

Read

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Reflect

We should be eager to share the Good News to others. The gift of the forgiveness of sins is available to everyone, not just his “chosen” people. He calls us to share this with everyone through the great commission. It might not be popular, but we are called to not be ashamed and offer the gift to others.

Respond

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THE SWORD – Ephesians 6:17, Week 7, **NOV 11**

Read

Isaiah 55:11 “so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

Reflect

God speaks to us through his Word. What he says through Scripture will succeed in the plan and purpose God create it for. We can take great comfort in knowing that God has a plan for us. And though we may not understand all that plan, God will accomplish good things through it.

Respond

THE SWORD – Ephesians 6:17, Week 7, **NOV 12**

Read

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Reflect

God’s word is as meaningful today as it was when it was written. Today we can read passages that both connect us to God and convict us of our sinful nature. The Bible reveals what is expected of a Christian and depicts thoughts, words and deeds that are not.

Respond

THE SWORD – Ephesians 6:17, Week 7, **NOV 13**

Read

2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”

Reflect

God’s Word is designed to teach us, to show us our errors and the ways to avoid them. Most importantly, the Bible shows us how to live like and love Jesus.

Respond

THE SWORD – Ephesians 6:17, Week 7, **NOV 14**

Read

Matthew 4:4 It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Reflect

We cannot become the Christian that God wants us to be simply by listening to others. We need to study and read the Bible for ourselves. Only then can we be adequately nourished spiritually and walk closer to the path that Jesus laid out for us.

Respond

THE SWORD – Ephesians 6:17, Week 7, **NOV 15**

Read

Luke 18:1 "And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart."

Reflect

Jesus taught the disciples – and subsequently us - to pray at all times. To continue to pray even though what we might be praying for may not happen any time soon. It may take years or even a lifetime, but we are taught to never lose heart in what we are earnestly praying for.

Respond

THE SWORD – Ephesians 6:17, Week 7, **NOV 16**

Read

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Reflect

By praying frequently, we maintain a closer relationship with God. Praying more and more often becomes a form of worship and ultimately, we come closer to the person God wants us to be.

Respond
