

Ephesians 6:10-20

The modern world divides into those who are obsessed with demonic powers and those who mock them as outdated rubbish. Neither approach does justice to reality. Despite the caricatures, the obsession, and the sheer muddle that people often get themselves into on this subject, there is such a thing as a dark force that seems to take over people, movements, and sometimes whole countries, a force or (as it sometimes seems) a set of forces that can make people do things they would never normally do (N.T. Wright 2011).

Spiritual warfare energizes your anger but lovingly redirects that anger away from human beings and toward a common enemy. Spiritual warfare gives us a vision of how human beings can become captives to larger unseen forces that trap us in perpetual conflict (Richard Beck, 2016).

What we've been given in Ephesians 6:10-20 is an invitation to make the language, beliefs, actions and hopes of the Christian faith our own, just as if we were putting on a set of clothes and leaving on them our own crease marks and stains and slight tears and worn patches. Inhabit the faith, put these beliefs to work, make them yours, try them out. They're given to us so we can discover what it really means to be part of the church. What it means to be part of a people using and enjoying these gifts and allowing ourselves to be transformed into a reflection—sometimes good, sometimes bad, seldom perfect—but nonetheless a reflection of the crucified and resurrected Body of Christ (Sam Wells, 2009).

How will I engage with others in our community of faith?

Next week: *Luke 16:1-15, Matthew 25:14-30*

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September 2, 2018

Making It Our Own

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 1 (What is God saying to you?)*

Monday: *Matthew 23:1-36*

Tuesday: *Matthew 20:20-28*

Wednesday: *Matthew 6:1-24*

Thursday: *Matthew 6:25-34*

Friday: *Matthew 5:1-11*

Saturday: *Matthew 5:13-20*

Almighty God, You sent Jesus to take our nature upon Himself and to be for us a Sign and Savior. Grant by the power of Your Spirit, Christ may be born within us today so our work will be pleasing to You and helpful to Your people. We pray in the Name and Spirit of Christ, Amen.

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