

Slide 1: NO Title

Picture of David and April at Junior Prom

Slide 2: NO Title

Picture of David and April at wedding in the chapel

Slide 3: Scripture

*10 Finally, be **strong** in the Lord and in the **strength** of his might. 11 **Put on** the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand** against the schemes of the devil. 12 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 in the heavenly places. - Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV)*

Slide 4: The Gospel Centered Life

- Our Wealth
- Our Walk
- Our Warfare

Slide 5: The Gospel Warfare

- Warfare from outside
- Warfare from inside
- Warfare from above

Slide 6: Scripture

*10 Finally, be **strong** in the Lord and in the **strength** of his might. – Eph. 6:10 (ESV)*

Slide 7: NO Title

*4 **Abide in me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am 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.** - John 15:4–5 (ESV)*

Slide 8: Scripture

***Put on** the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand against** the schemes of **the devil**. – Eph. 6:11 (ESV)*

Slide 9: NO Title

“It requires more prowess and greatness of spirit to obey God faithfully than to command an army of men ...” Pastor William Gurnall in “The Christian in Complete Armour”

Slide 10 The Gospel Centered Life

“Faith is only real when there is obedience, never without it, and faith only becomes faith in the act of obedience.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Slide 11: Scripture

***to stand** against the schemes of **the devil**. – Eph. 6:11b (ESV)*

Slide 12: NO Title

There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. - C. S. Lewis

Slide 13: The Enemy

- Satan means “adversary,” (1 Pe. 5:8)
- Devil means “accuser,” (Rev. 12:7–11).
- Tempter (Mt. 4:3)
- Murderer and Liar (Jn 8:44)
- Thief (Jn 10:10)
- Crafty (2 Cor. 11:14)

Slide 14: Scripture

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. - Eph.1 Pe 5:8 (ESV)

Slide 15: KENYA

- Picture of lion
- Picture of lion stalking

Slide 16: Scripture

12 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 in the heavenly places. - Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)

Slide 17: Scripture

*13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 **He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.** – Col. 2:13–15 (ESV)*

- I. Introduction: 4 min
 - a. Foundation and thread of ministry here
 - i. High School 4 years
 - 1. 2nd graduation class
 - 2. Junior year started dating my now wife of 21 years April SLIDE 1
 - a. Our class was 11 students. Which was great, high percentage of me standing out.
 - ii. 03' Married in the Chapel SLIDE 2
 - iii. 04' I served on staff
 - iv. 06' Sent to plant
 - b. Derek Sophomore year
 - i. Battling with where to go

II. Scripture Reading: 1 min - SLIDE 3

III. Prayer: 1 min

IV. The Gospel Centered Life: 3 min – SLIDE 4

- a. Paul's letter from prison
 - i. To reveal the beauty and power of a gospel centered life.
 - 1. A life that transforms the Christian and the world.
 - ii. Paul is grounding, shaping, and challenging us live out our faith.
 - 1. In a world of desperation and darkness
 - 2. In short Paul has been teaching us what it means to be a Christian.
 - a. In chapters 1, 2, and 3, Paul has talked about our **wealth** in Christ, what God has done for us through His Son.
 - b. Then in chapters 4 and 5, he's talked about our **walk** in Christ.
 - 3. Now in chapter 6, he comes to our **warfare**.
- b. Bit about Paul's military language
 - i. He's not obsessed with war
 - ii. Swapping scars stories with the Roman guard
 - 1. First journey The streets of LIHS-truh (Lystra Act 14) stone came right here. They dragged me out of the city... thought I was dead... Then my boy Barnabas. Have you seen Gladiator.
 - iii. He is using language to describe the severity and reality of Spiritual Warfare.

V. The Gospel Warfare: 4 min SLIDE 5

- a. Christians are surprised to experience the Christian life not as playground, but a battleground.
- b. Not the Self Help Book w/ Jesus Language
 - i. Ephesians 6 tells us, that as Christians, **we are confronted by spiritual darkness and evil from multiple angles and directions.**
 1. Many many Christians live ignorant to these forces of darkness.
 - a. Choosing to ignore, explain away or dismiss the realities for darkness.
- c. When confronted w/ the forces of darkness people will say they only come
 - i. Evil is external.
 1. That's just the world, influences and conditions us into who are.
 - ii. Others would say no, Evil is internal. People are the problem.
 1. You, your biology, the choices one makes are evil.
 - iii. Or that evil comes from above and that it's all spiritual. That everything has to do with demons, with evils spirits.
 1. You can see the merit and the trappings of each logic.
 - a. The problem is the world, the person or the devil.
- d. **In 1 John we're told that in this age we are in constant conflict with the world, the flesh, and the Devil. – SLIDE 5 Continued**
 - i. "The world" refers to the system around us that is opposed to God
 1. Society apart from God
 - ii. "The flesh" is the old nature that we inherited from Adam, a nature that is opposed to God and can do nothing spiritual to please God.
 - iii. The devil, the enemy, the orchestrator of rebellion and opposition to God.
 1. Evil comes at us from every direction possible.
 - a. There's evil outside me.
 - b. There's evil inside me.
 - c. There's evil above me.
- e. The Real Battle is where the conflict with the world, the flesh, and the Devil is played out.
 - i. So what do we do with this constant onslaught?

VI. 10 Finally, be **strong** in the Lord and in the **strength** of his might.: 4 min – SLIDE 6

- a. Finally!
 - i. Paul has built to a place where he can speak to this reality.
- b. Be strong (vv. 10–11, 13).
 - i. Because, *evil is coming from every direction, we must be aware so that we don't lead defeated lives.*"
 1. We are called to a life of victory, not defeat.
 - a. Victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil.
 - ii. We are not talking about salvation here.
 1. We are talking about withstanding the attacks of evil.
 - c. Be strong in the strength of his might.
 - i. The passive form of the verb (“be strong”)
 1. Is speaking to empowering done to Christians,
 - a. not something Christians do themselves.
 - ii. To be strong in the Lord means to know his strength.
 1. and to draw closer to him.
 - a. Its speaking about a life spent drawing strength from Him.
 2. This is discipleship, this is relationship.
 - a. The Foundation of enduring spiritual warfare.
 - b. Jesus said, abide in me and I in you... apart from me you can do nothing. Jn 15:4-6 – SLIDE 7
 - i. To be Strong only comes from him
 - iii. This means, we do not fight for the victory—but from victory!
 1. Christ by His death and resurrection, overcame.
 - a. the world (John 16:33; Gal. 6:14),
 - b. the flesh (Rom. 6:1–6; Gal. 2:20)
 - c. and the devil (Eph. 1:19–23).
 2. The Spirit of God enables us, by faith, to appropriate Christ’s victory for ourselves.
 - a. We take on all that is Christ!
 - b. “Be imitators of God.” – Character
 - i. Strong in the Lord and in the Strength of His Might!

VII. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.: 7 min – SLIDE 8

- a. Some are living defeated lives because of a lack of Putting On. A lack of full surrender and obedience.
 - i. Instead of repentance you blame the world or the devil!
 - ii. We want to be the captain of our fate....
 1. The maker, not the taker of orders.
 - iii. Pastor William Gurnall in “The Christian in Complete Armour wrote,
 1. *“It requires more prowess and greatness of spirit to obey God faithfully than to command an army of men ...” – SLIDE 9*
 - iv. We would rather be in the tower than the front lines.
 1. Risk...
 2. The Line... Gladiator - HOLD
 - v. Can’t we be victorious with the benefits and privileges of Ephesians 1-3 without the surrender and obedience of Ephesians 6.
 1. *“Faith is only real when there is obedience, never without it, and faith only becomes faith in the act of obedience.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer – SLIDE 10*
- b. To put on the whole armor of God means you’re enlisted.
 - i. It means to obeying orders and
 1. Without which disaster and defeat are almost guaranteed.
- c. Bit about COS enlisted – You’re in the army now.
 - i. 90% of my community is military either retired or enlisted.
 1. Army (One side)
 2. Airforce (Other side)
 3. Space force
 - ii. I feel a little left out...
 1. I’m in the Lord’s Army (50%)
 - iii. Can you prove it...
 1. The proof is in the putting on
 - a. To obey and often w/out an explanation.
 - i. That’s where the real courage comes in.
 2. Actually, the Armor is a symbol of privileges and benefits.
 - a. The real question is are you actively using the benefits?
 - i. This is the same thing Paul is saying in Romans 6.
 - ii. You have something in Christ.
 - iii. You have benefits and privileges and powers.
 - iv. Power is not for ego, but for living obediently.
 1. Power is not a switch to be turned on and off. It is a continual, relational empowering that results from living in Christ
 - a. Its purpose is to enable us to stand w/ God and against evil.
 - d. Will you Stand!
 - i. For Paul, the need to standing against the devil’s schemes is assumed.

VIII. to stand against the schemes of the devil.: 7 min – SLIDE 11

- a. The Battle is real and so is the enemy.
 - i. Knowing the enemy and recon is critical to military victory.
 1. We must know who the enemy is, where he is, and what he can do.
 - ii. *There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. - C. S. Lewis – SLIDE 12*
 1. In the Bible, God tells us about the enemy, so that we are not caught off guard.
 - a. Satan is the devil, who stands diametrically opposed to God and human **well-being**.
- b. **He has many different names. – SLIDE 13**
 - i. Satan means “**adversary**,”
 1. The enemy of God.
 - ii. Devil means “**accuser**,”
 1. because he accuses God’s people day and night before the throne of God (Rev. 12:7–11).
 - a. **You are not worthy, you cannot walk, you will not stand!**
 - b. Why would anyone choose you or love you.
 - i. That’s the voice of the accuser.
 - iii. He is also called the **tempter** (Matt. 4:3), murderer and liar (John 8:44)
 - iv. Jesus calls Satan a thief who comes “to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (John 10:10).
 1. He is “cunning, crafty, presents himself as truth (2 Cor. 11:14) and seeks to corrupt our view of the truth of God’s Word.
 - a. Satan wants to use our external enemy, the world, and our internal enemy, the flesh, to defeat us. .
- c. Where did he come from?
 - i. Isaiah tells us that Satan was called, “Lucifer, son of the morning” (Isa. 14:12–15) and that he was cast down because of his pride and his desire to occupy God’s throne.
 1. There are mysteries around the origin of Satan,
 - a. but what he is doing and where he is going are clear!
 - i. He seeks to oppose God and His work! & Defeat!
 2. **Never underestimate the power of the devil.- SLIDE 14**
 - a. *8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Pe 5:8.
 - i. **Story of Kenya – SLIDE 15**
- d. What he can’t do
 - i. He is created and not eternal (as God is),
 - ii. He is limited in his knowledge and activity.
 - iii. He not all-knowing, all-powerful, or everywhere present.

IX. Satan's reach and influence across the world stem from his cunning organization and the unwavering allegiance of those aligned with him.: 6 min

a. As Paul emphatically states,

i. *12 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 in the heavenly places. – SLIDE 16*

b. Throughout his letter, Paul passionately contrasts these opposing forces

i. —light versus darkness, good versus evil—illustrating their immense power and irreconcilable conflict.

ii. Yet, amidst this cosmic battle, we cling to the ultimate truth: Jesus Christ, through his victorious death and resurrection, has triumphed over all powers and dominions.

1. *13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. – Col. 2:13–15 (ESV) – SLIDE 17*

a. He reigns supreme as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

iii. *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Mt 28:18–20.*

c. Our enemy is not mere humans or earthly institutions; it is the spiritual forces that seek to undermine God's purposes and distort truth.

i. Practically speaking, this means recognizing that every institution, government, economic system, and societal movement has spiritual implications.

1. These entities, though powerful, are ultimately subject to the authority of Christ.

d. *Our mission is clear: to stand firm in faith, to boldly resist the spiritual forces of darkness, and to proclaim the liberating truth of Jesus Christ to a world in desperate need of redemption.*

i. How

1. Relationships – proclaim the liberating truth in love and character.

a. Are you good news?

2. Work - look for the redemptive edge.

3. Worship – Do you start from victory, praise is the battle cry...

- X. This is not a passive call but a passionate battle cry!
 - a. We are participants in a spiritual warfare that spans the heavens and the earth.
 - i. With Jesus as our victorious leader,
 - 1. we are empowered to live and proclaim the gospel fearlessly,
 - 2. knowing that the forces of evil are already defeated.
 - ii. Let us stand firm, walk in victory, and boldly declare the reign of Jesus Christ over all creation!

- XI. Response
 - a. A Reflective moment
 - i. If you're feeling the weight of spiritual warfare, if you're battling dark thoughts, fear, or doubt, don't fight this battle alone.
 - 1. If that's you, would you raise your hand?
 - ii. We believe in the power of prayer to break chains and bring God's light into the darkest places.
 - 1. Let us stand with you, pray with you, and call upon God's strength and protection over your life.
 - 2. Step out in faith, and let's claim the victory that Jesus has already won for you.
 - iii. Now is the time—come and experience the power of God's presence and love.
 - 1. Come forward for prayer.
 - b. Invitation to Jesus
 - i. If today's message has stirred your heart and you feel the call to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, now is the time.
 - 1. Jesus, who conquered spiritual darkness and triumphed over death, is offering you forgiveness, love, and eternal life.
 - a. Don't wait—embrace this life-changing moment!
 - 2. Pray with me:
 - a. Lord Jesus, I need Your grace and forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose again, victorious over death and all spiritual forces of darkness. I surrender my heart to You. Thank You for eternal life. Amen.