

Life Group Homework

For the week of September 16, 2018

MY STORY

1. What is your favorite animal and why?
2. What are you hoping to get out of this study?

QUICK REVIEW

3. Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

Ephesians 6:10-11 (NLT)

4. What does it mean to stand strong in the Lord?
5. Whose strength are we supposed to stand in?
6. What is one way we can be strong in the Lord?

In future weeks we will be studying the Armor of God, but this week we are unpacking Paul's final words to the church in Ephesus. Pastor Craig's key thought, based on Paul's final words, was that we have so much to lose.

7. Often when someone is standing strong, they are holding a position against something. What is the ground that we are trying to hold on to?
8. Is there a difference between standing firm and trying to advance? If so, what is it?
9. What does the passage tell us we are to do?

Pastor Craig shared this thought, "All of us who follow Christ have given Him the ground of our hearts. The enemy of our souls wants that ground. He fights for it piece by piece. We're speaking of our integrity, the thoughts that guide our decisions, and about ALL that is meaningful to who WE are."

10. What do we have to lose?

TAKING IT HOME

²¹ I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²² I love God's law with all my heart. ²³ But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. ²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

Romans 7:21-25 (NLT)

11. How does this passage from Romans 7 relate to standing strong?
12. According to this passage, where does Paul's battle lie?
13. Where does our battle lie?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

14. What is one area in your life that you need to stand strong in God's power?
15. Regarding the battle for our hearts, is there something you need to surrender to Jesus?
16. Read Romans Chapters 7-8 and think about how Christ's power is the answer in your life.

FAMILY RESOURCES

Make no mistake, there is a battle for the hearts and minds of our children as well.

17. What can you do to stand strong for your family?
18. How can we pray for our family members?
19. Is there anything you need to shift or eliminate to make more time together?

CHOSEN

TO LIVE STRONG

LEARNING HOW TO WIN LIFE'S BATTLES

September 16, 2018 | PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

One Big Thought: We have a lot to lose.

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NLT)

"¹⁰A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹²For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."

OUR GOAL: "...able to stand firm..."

What's important for today?

- "A final word"
- "Be strong"
- "Be strong in the Lord"
- "Be strong in the LORD, in his mighty power."

What's important to know? (Romans 7-8)

• **The Holy Spirit**

Inspires, motivates and encourages me as I follow Christ in the fight.

• **How?**

Posture of my heart

Expectation/faith

• **The picture Paul paints.**

¹⁵I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate...¹⁸And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. ¹⁹I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. (Romans 7:15-19 NLT)

⁵Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. ⁹But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you." (Romans 8:5-9)

CHALLENGE:

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

- What needs to change about how I think?
- What will I do to be "led by the Spirit?"