

Connect

In his book titled, “The Screwtape Letters,” C.S. Lewis suggested there are **two** equal and **opposite errors** we can have about devils. **One** is to not believe that devils exist. **The other** is to believe they do exist, but have an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.

What do you think he meant by this? Do you agree with him?

Verses - Ephesians 6:10-13 (CSB)

10 Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. 13 For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.

Study

1. In v.10 Paul instructs his readers to allow ***the Lord*** to strengthen them, by his vast strength. What does this suggest about the readers' strength other than provided by God? (hint: Whose armor is it?)

2. Is ***anyone*** (besides Jesus) strong enough to stand against the schemes of ***the devil***? According to Paul, how can we stand against them (v.11)?

3. Paul mentions ***other evil spiritual forces***. (v.12) Why, perhaps, does he not explain how such other-worldly powers operate? (v.13, Hebrews 2:7, Isaiah 55:8-9)

APPLY

What is Paul's central message and application of vv.10-13? (1 Peter 5:8-10; 2 Thessalonians 3:3) When should we do this? How do we not rely on our own strength, but on God's? (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

DISCUSS

What are some possible "schemes of the devil" to which Paul refers (v.11) and what do you suppose the devil is ultimately trying to accomplish with these schemes? (1 Thessalonians 2:18; 2 Corinthians 2:11, 4:4, 10:4-5; 1 Peter 5:8-10)

Share

Read 2 Corinthians 2:9-11. How is unforgiveness related to what Satan was trying to achieve? (Luke 22:31) Have you witnessed similar spiritual warfare of ***disunity*** in the past? How did you overcome the attack?

Grow

Based on what you have studied today, in prayer: What might you be able to confess? What can you praise God for who He is? What can you thank Him for? Finally, take prayer requests and pray for each other. Have someone pray the Lord's Prayer before closing.