

September 12, 2020 – The Village Day of Prayer and Fasting **Ephesians 6:10-20**

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

6:00AM – Paul ends his letter to the Ephesians with an invitation to be strong in the Lord. This has been a common theme in our times of prayer and fasting. Let us begin our day by confessing the places we feel weak and asking God for strength.

[If you have written these areas down previously, revisit them. Have grace for yourself if you notice some recurring themes.]

8:00AM – Think through the process of getting dressed for the day. Write down the ways that you mentally and physically prepare yourself for going out into the world. What would it look like to prepare for the day spiritually? Ask God to join you as you begin your day. Also read Colossians 3:12-17.

10:00AM – Consider verse 12. It is obvious in our time and space that the enemy is disrupting and undermining how we understand each other racially, socio-economically, and politically. Spend some time praying against the enemy's strongholds in this world. Ask God to shine his light on "the powers of this dark world."

¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

There is a conflict and if we as individuals are not readying ourselves for that conflict, we are allowing the enemy footholds in our community which can create division, animosity and dehumanizing each other.

12:00PM – This has been a hard year, and many of us feel as though we have been knocked down. Speak aloud to God the things that have come against you and ask him for the armor you need. Take on a posture of spiritually "standing your ground" to do this. [Bonus: Listen to *Stand Firm* by The Village]

2:00PM – At 10:00am, we prayed about how the enemy is disrupting and undermining how we understand each other. Consider each piece of the armor of God and how this armor prepares us to meet the enemy in these places. Write down each individual piece as you reflect on it. [Bonus: Listen to *Dual Wield* by The Village]

4:00PM – We are in a battle together, fighting alongside one another. Sometimes we need to assist each other in armoring up. How can you support other people or ask for help?

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

6:00PM – Pray for the church. Think about the needs of your brothers and sisters and offer them to the Lord in prayer. Spend an hour praying.

8:00PM – Pray for the leaders in the church. Pray for your pastors and offer them to the Lord in prayer.

10:00PM – Cast off the fears of this world in prayer and ask God for the courage to “fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.” To close the day, thank God and sing or listen to a song of worship.