

MONDAY NIGHT MEETING

EPHESIANS - BATTLE FOR THE MIND

APRIL 24, 2017

I. BALANCE CONCERNING THE SPIRITUAL CONFLICT

A. By Priority in Ephesians

1. Who we are in Christ
2. What we must be to people
3. What we must be in the spiritual conflict

B. By scriptural proportion in Ephesians

1. What we are to be to people - 85% of application
2. What we must be in the spiritual conflict - 15%

II. THE BATTLE IS IN THE MIND AND THE ISSUE IS FAITH

A. Two key conflicts

1. Eve - Genesis 3
 - a. Two sets of thoughts
 - (1) God's word and goodness
 - (2) Devil's word and doubts about God
 - b. Eve will act on one of those thoughts
 - (1) The thoughts on which she acts is her faith
2. The Lord in the wilderness - Matthew 4:1-11
 - a. The Father had made His plan clear
 - b. The devil made appeals step aside from the plan
 - c. Jesus stood with His Father - acted by faith

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B. Helpful passages

1. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
 - a. War to destroy thoughts exalted against God
 - b. Thoughts brought captive to Christ
2. James 4:6-7
 - a. Submit to God - Resist the devil
3. 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - a. Devil goes about like a roaring lion
 - b. Whom resist firm in faith

C. Key alternatives to faith

1. Pride - trust yourselves
2. Fear - do not trust anyone

D. In Ephesians the second seems to be the emphasis

1. Because of the call to be strong
2. Because of the call to fight
3. Because of the appeal of Paul for prayer

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

~ 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

~ James 4:6-7

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

~ 1 Peter 5:8-9