



CONNECTION

October, 2016

“Joy-Filled Disciples of Jesus”

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. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. (Eph 6:10–13 ESV)

Sometimes, we feel strong. It's like the feeling of passing a hard test, or convincing someone in a conversation, or doing what is right when you were tempted otherwise. Those are good moments.

At other times, we feel weak. Like the feeling of studying the wrong things for the exam, or being at a loss for words in an important discussion, or succumbing to that same temptation yet again. How easy it is for us to be overwhelmed, lonely, weary, and uncertain. We know that if we are really going to be strong we are going to need some help.

The news may seem too good to be true, but God does help us. We find strength in the Lord, in His might. It does not become a power that is forever ours. That would lead us to imagine that we are strong in ourselves, in our own might. No, we depend upon the Lord moment by moment. Even when we feel strong and independent, we know that it is only because God is helping us. If that help were to be removed for even a second, we would immediately be confronted with our own weakness.

God provides armor to protect us in our battles. This passage from Ephesians is well-known and well-loved. Even though few of us have the background of a first-century soldier, we can picture each piece of armor being put on. We are encouraged by the array of gifts the Lord gives to us. When we receive these gifts and rely upon them, we find ourselves with a strength that is beyond us; with might that enables us to stand firm.

That is our hope. The battles are too hard, the enemies are too powerful and crafty for us to prevail outright. The Lord Jesus is our champion. He is the conqueror who defeats sin, death, and the devil. He achieves the triumph, then gives us the victory. He protects us so that, when the battle is at last over, we are still standing.

When we feel weak, embattled and surrounded, this is what we must remember. The old Sunday School song reminds us: “Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong.” The Scripture reminds us: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Brothers and sisters, let us put on the full armor of God and stand!

Yours, in Him,

Pastor Dave

Men's Bible Study

The Men's First Saturday Bible Study will meet on October 1 at 9:00 am in the church Lounge. We have been having a very rewarding time discussing the book of Hosea. This month, we will cover Hosea chapters 11-12. Come and join us as we learn together from God's Word and pray together for God's blessings.

Believe and Belong!

**An introduction to
First Presbyterian Church
for those interested in membership,**

**Sunday Mornings
11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
October 16-30, 2016**

Pastor Eikenberry will be leading a class for all those who are interested in learning more about becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church. We will learn about:

- the basics of Christian faith
- the importance of church membership
- the major events of church history
- our Presbyterian heritage and beliefs
- the life of our particular congregation

This class will include an overview of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, and the Essentials of the Faith.

Please call or email the church office if you plan to come. We want to be sure to have enough materials on hand! (1-847-662-6483, office@firstpreswaukegan.com)

Upcoming Sermons

October 2

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Ephesians 6:10-13

"Stand Firm"

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

October 9

Ephesians 6:14

"The Belt of Truth and the Breastplate of Righteousness"

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, (Eph 6:14 ESV)

October 16

Ephesians 6:15

"The Shoes of the Gospel"

and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. (Eph 6:15 ESV)

October 23

Ephesians 6:16

"The Shield of Faith and the Helmet of Salvation"

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; (Eph 6:16 ESV)

October 30

Ephesians 6:17

**"The Sword of the Spirit:
The Word of God"**

...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph 6:17 ESV)