



Man's Hopeless Condition

By Johnny Caruso on July 19, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Ephesians 6

In the Greek language, the phrase “we do not wrestle” refers to hand-to-hand combat. The picture is of two Olympians locked hand in hand, arm in arm, back and forth, locked in mortal combat, covered in dirt, blood, sweat and tears. In ancient Greek days it was much different than now. Wrestlers were allowed to gouge their opponent’s eyes; many times the losers’ eyes were put out. This is the kind of spiritual fight each of us faces every day; it is personal, up-close and brutal.

Whether we realize it or not, every day we are locked in a personal battle with the forces of darkness, as the enemy tries to get a new hold on us. We should expect him to attack us again today in some weak area, pushing us toward pride, anger, lust, drunkenness, or just simply away from being others-centered. Paul reminds us that since our struggle is supernatural, our weapons are also. It is only when we stand fully clothed in the armor of God, that we will be able to hold our ground against our adversary. The hard thing is that our adversaries are not wearing a red suit, have horns or carrying a pitchfork.

There will be times, when so much is coming at us that standing is all we can accomplish; we cannot even try to take any new ground. But that is okay because as we notice, all we are told to do is simply *stand*. In this passage of scripture, we are not told to attack or even to move forward. We are just told to stand firm. The battle is the Lord's. We have to stop over-thinking our response and allow the Lord to show us what to do. We often become so overwhelmed by the big picture that we forget our own personal spot in the battle line. The war against our soul will be fought in small skirmishes. The real question is are we holding onto our own 24-by-24 inches?

PRAYER: Father, we come before You today to admit we do not have the sufficient power and strength to overcome the snares of the wicked one. We give this day in Your hands and are depending on Your power and sufficiency.

TOMORROW'S READING: Ephesians 7

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