

Introduction:

When we follow Jesus, Easter becomes more than a single day we celebrate: it becomes a focal point of our faith. As we grow closer to Jesus, the Gospel & the Resurrection inform our daily lives and play an active role in our worldview. We must make the daily choice to stay in contact with God.

Scripture:

Ephesians 6:10-11 - "A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil."

Ephesians 6:18 - "Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere."

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever had a household chore or project that you continually put off, hoping it would magically take care of itself?
2. Sometimes it is easy to become passive when it comes to our faith, but Paul uses active language when he encourages us to "put on" God's armor. What do you think that looks like, to "put on" God's armor?
3. Paul continues his call to action when he says we should be "alert" and "persistent" in our prayers. What do you think changes when we are truly persistent in our prayers, as opposed to simply offering a prayer once & moving on?
4. Ephesians 6 makes it clear that if we are seeking Jesus, we are going to face strategic opposition. A few of those strategies include: deception, temptation, guilt, and arrogance.
 - Is one of these strategies more effective than the others at distracting you & keeping you from growing closer to Jesus?
 - What armor does God have to offer, or what persistent prayer could you pray, that might help you avoid or stand firm against that strategy?

Take the Next Step:

The armor of God and the power of persistent prayer are not only for you; they can be transformative in the lives of the people you encounter every day: family members, neighbors, and coworkers. What conversation can you have or what prayer could you pray to begin that process?