



Sunday November 16th We have a (defeated) enemy

Key scriptures

1 Peter 5:8-9a — *Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.*

James 4:7-8 — *So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you.*

John 10:10 — *The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*

Key concepts:

- We must not give Satan too much of our attention or focus, but we must also not ignore his existence and influence.
- The devil is God's enemy – and God has defeated him!
- The devil has power *in this world* – but it is limited by God who is much more powerful.
- Rather than annihilate all evil (including us) Jesus took it on Himself and will set us free from it – if we ask Him.
- Satan comes to steal and destroy – Jesus comes to give life, live in all its fulness.

For reflection or further study.

Whose voice are you listening to? Take some time to consider the way you make decisions (small ones as well as big ones), how you react to different types of event, what you consider to be right and wrong – can you identify what things influence you?

What does it mean to “humble yourself before God,” to, “resist the devil” and to, “come close to God”? How might you do this in practice?

Read Ephesians 6:10-20. What can you do to consciously stand strong in the Lord and equip yourself with the armour of God? How can you, “Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere”?

Consider reading *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis; it gives an interesting insight into the voices we may not even be aware of.

Read John 17. Part-way through (v20) Jesus mentions that He is praying for all who will ever believe in Him through the apostles' message: that includes you! Read it through slowly and put your name in wherever Jesus refers to His followers¹; consider what this prayer means for you.

¹ e.g. “I'm not asking you to take Bert out of the world, but to keep him safe from the evil one. Bert does not belong to this world any more than I do. Make Bert holy by your truth; teach him your word, which is truth.”. If your name is not Bert, adapt accordingly.