

THIS WEEK

- **Tuesday** – 8:00 AM – Community Prayer @ The Gathering Place
- **Wednesday** – 6:00PM Meal
6:30 PM Discussion on Sunday's Message **AND** Women's Bible
- **Thursday** – 6:30 AM Men's Group @ Church



Ministry/Service Opportunities

We're thrilled to share **current ministry openings** at Gateway Church Monroe—**opportunities** to use your **time and talents** to help spread God's love.

- **Sunday Coffee & Building Prep**
- **Children's Ministry Worker/s**
- **Flag Setup & Takedown**

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 10th

Christmas in the Air at **The Gathering Place** at **6:30pm**. The **Shepherds Staff Quartet** will be singing. Our church will be helping volunteer. **Everyone is invited to come enjoy music and treats!**

Children's Ministry

Safety First: Check-in/out, registration, incident reporting, cameras, etc!

Welcoming Space: *Safe and fun* for kids to **learn AND grow** in **God's Word**.

We can't wait to welcome your family!

GIVING

Because we believe all that we have is a gift from God, we choose to make our giving an act of worship.

Gateway Church Monroe's Offerings

- General Fund (Weekly Goal – \$1539)
- Missions (Weekly Goal – \$247)

3 Ways to Give

- At the back of the room
- www.gatewaychurch.com/giving
- Scan the code



GET CONNECTED

Stay connected with Gateway Church Monroe!

Scan the code to share your contact info for church updates.



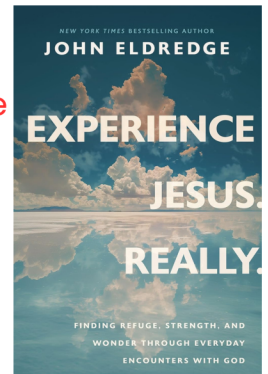
Men's Group Series

Thursday's @ 6:30am

**Experience Jesus.
Really.**

Author: John Eldridge

Slow down, quiet the noise, and encounter Jesus in the middle of everyday life, not just on Sundays.



Wednesday Nights

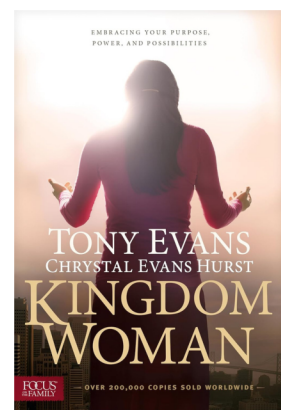
DINNER at 6:00 PM, Study at 6:30 PM.

Join us as we gather to **dive deeper into Sunday's message**, share insights, ask questions, and **learn together** through **open discussion and reflection**.

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday's at 6:30PM

Join us as we study **Kingdom Woman** and **discover** your God given **purpose and power**.



THE CHRISTMAS STORY SERIES

Sunday, Dec 7th: The Story of Prophecy

Sunday, Dec 14th: The Story of Mary and Joseph

Sunday, Dec 21st: The Story of the Shepherds and Angels

Wednesday, Dec 24th at 4:30 PM: The Story of the Birth

Sunday, Dec 28th: The Story of the Wisemen

Message Notes

Transformed Identity: Stand in His victory

Ephesians 6:10-23

*****Daily Sunday Follow Up Bible Studies posted Mon–Fri on Facebook AND gatewaychurchmonroe.com/blog*****

Tactics and Schemes of the Enemy

1. Deception & Lies - Primary tactic: Twisting truth, creating counterfeit realities, and making evil appear good.

- Genesis 3:1–5 → “Did God actually say...?” (Questions God’s Word and goodness)
- John 8:44 → “He is a liar and the father of lies”
- 2 Corinthians 11:14–15 → Disguises himself as an angel of light
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 → Blinds the minds of unbelievers
- Revelation 12:9 → “The deceiver of the whole world”
- 2 Thessalonians 2:9–11 → Works with “all wicked deception” and God sends a “strong delusion” on those who reject truth

2. Temptation to Sin - Directly enticing people to disobey God.

- Genesis 3:6 → Makes the forbidden fruit look “desirable”
- Matthew 4:1–11 → Tempts Jesus with appetite, pride, and worship
- 1 Chronicles 21:1 → Incites David to take a census (pride of pride)
- 1 Corinthians 7:5 → Uses lack of self-control in marriage to tempt
- James 1:14–15 → Works through our own evil desires to lure and entrap

3. Accusation & Condemnation - Constantly slandering believers before God and in their own consciences.

- Job 1–2 → Accuses Job of serving God only for blessing
- Zechariah 3:1–2 → Stands to “accuse” Joshua the high priest
- Revelation 12:10 → “The accuser of our brothers... who accuses them day and night”
- (Implied in Romans 8:33–34 and the need for Christ as intercessor)

4. Affliction, Suffering & Destruction - Brings physical, emotional, and circumstantial pain to destroy faith.

- Job 1–2 → Destroys Job’s family, wealth, and health (with God’s permission)
- Luke 13:16 → A woman “bound” by Satan for 18 years
- 2 Corinthians 12:7 → Paul’s “thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan”
- 1 Peter 5:8 → “Prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour”
- Hebrews 2:14 → Holds the power of death through fear

5. Pride & Rebellion Against God - The root of his own fall and the sin he most promotes in others.

- Isaiah 14:12–15 → “I will ascend... I will make myself like the Most High”
- Ezekiel 28:12–17 → Pride because of beauty and corruption
- Acts 5:3 → Fills Ananias’ heart to lie (pride and hypocrisy)

6. False Religion & Counterfeit Spirituality - Infiltrates and imitates true worship.

- 2 Corinthians 11:13–15 → His servants masquerade as “apostles of Christ” and “servants of righteousness”
- 1 Timothy 4:1 → Deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons
- Revelation 2:9, 3:9 → “Synagogue of Satan” (false believers)
- Revelation 13 → Empowers the beast and false prophet with false signs and wonders

7. Division & Strife Among God’s People

- Matthew 13:38–39 → Sows “weeds” (sons of the evil one) among the wheat
- 2 Corinthians 2:11 → Works through unforgiveness so “Satan might not outwit us”
- Ephesians 4:26–27 → Uses unresolved anger to “give the devil a foothold”

8. Opposition to the Gospel & Persecution

- Matthew 13:19 → Snatches away the word sown in hearts
- 1 Thessalonians 2:18 → “Satan hindered us” from visiting the church
- Revelation 12:13–17 → Makes war on the offspring of the woman (the church)

9. Masquerading as an Ally of God’s People - Most dangerous when he appears helpful or “spiritual.”

- Acts 16:16–18 → Spirit of divination brings profit while praising Paul
- Matthew 16:22–23 → Peter unwittingly speaks Satan’s words to Jesus (“Never underestimate this one—he often quotes Scripture (Matt 4) and sounds religious

The Full Armor (v. 13-17)

Belt of Truth In a world of deepfakes, spin, and “my truth,” the belt is God’s objective reality holding everything together. It keeps your pants (and your life) from falling apart when someone screenshots an old post to cancel you.

Breastplate of Righteousness This is Jesus’ perfect record credited to your account. It protects your heart from guilt, shame, and the inner voice that says, “you’re trash.” You’re not faking holiness on Instagram — you’re covered by Someone who already lived perfectly for you.

Shoes of the Gospel of Peace You’re not walking into every room anxious or ready to argue. You carry the news that you’re already reconciled to God — so you can stay chill even when the group chat explodes or the world feels like it’s burning.

Shield of Faith Faith is your pop-up blocker for flaming arrows:

- “You’ll never be enough”
- “One more drink/scroll/purchase will fix you”
- “God’s abandoned you” Every time you choose to trust God’s promises over the lie, you extinguish another arrow.

Helmet of Salvation Protects your mind. In an age of anxiety, depression, and overthinking, this is the assurance that you’re eternally safe in Christ — so today’s spiral doesn’t get the final word.

Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God) The only offensive weapon. It’s not a physical Bible you swing at people — it’s specific Scriptures you speak over yourself and others when the enemy whispers lies. Jesus used it in the wilderness (“It is written...”). You do the same when the thoughts come: “No weapon formed against me will prosper” “I am more than a conqueror” “The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.”

The Week’s Application Steps

1. There **STILL** is a battle! (Recognize the pushback as proof you’re on the right side)

This week’s application: Every time you feel unusual resistance, irritation, or spiritual heaviness while trying to live out Ephesians 1–5 (e.g., you try to forgive and a root of bitterness flares up; you try to love your spouse like Christ and suddenly every old wound resurfaces; you try to walk in purity and the temptation hits harder than normal), stop and say out loud: “This resistance is evidence the enemy hates what Jesus has already done in me.” Then text or tell one Christian friend exactly what you just noticed. Naming it out loud robs the devil of the secrecy he needs.

2. It’s probably not what you think it is! (The real fight is not against flesh and blood)

This week's application – the 6-word prayer: Before you argue with (or even post about) any person this week—spouse, child, boss, politician, activist—pause and pray these six words: “Lord, show me the real enemy.” Then wait ten full seconds in silence. 95 % of the time the Holy Spirit will shift the face you see from the person in front of you to the spiritual force trying to use that person. It changes everything about how you respond.

3. Be careful of mission drift! (Hold ground; don't re-fight the war)

This week's application – the daily “Not one inch” declaration: Every morning this week, before you open your phone or talk to anyone, stand up physically, plant both feet firmly on the floor, and say out loud: “Devil, you get not one inch back of what Jesus paid for in my mind, my marriage, my children, my thought life, my purity, my peace, my future. I stand in the finished victory of the cross.” Say it like you mean it. It takes 15 seconds and resets your entire mission for the day.

4. Deploy your available defenses! (Put on the full armor every day)

This week's application – the 3-minute “suit-up” routine: Set a recurring alarm on your phone for 7:00 a.m. (or whatever time you actually wake up). When it goes off, literally go through the motions for three minutes:

- Touch your waist and pray the belt of truth.
- Touch your chest and pray the breastplate of righteousness.
- Put on shoes (or touch your feet) and pray the gospel of peace.
- Raise one arm and pray the shield of faith.
- Touch your head and pray the helmet of salvation.
- Make a sword motion with your hand and pray the sword of the Spirit (name one specific verse you're claiming that day). People who physically act it out while praying remember it 400–900 % better than those who just “think” the armor.

5. Don't go out alone! (Stay in formation and in prayer)

This week's application – the “lock shields” text thread: Right after the service (or tonight), start a group text with exactly 2–4 other believers you trust (your small group, three friends, your spouse + one couple—keep it small and safe). Name the thread “Ephesians 6 Shields” or something simple. Every single day this week, each person sends one short text:

- One thing you're standing for.
- One piece of armor you're putting on today.
- One quick prayer request. That's it—no essays. Takes 30 seconds. By the end of seven days you will have prayed for each other daily, carried each other's burdens, and literally locked shields in real time. The Roman testudo only worked when every shield stayed connected to the next one.