

Wednesday Word

March 6, 2024

Ephesians 6:10 “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.

Years ago, in the early 2000’s, I was a part of a young adult outreach team that would go to Pacific Avenue in Downtown Tacoma on Friday nights. There was an outreach ministry from another local church that would serve hot meals to homeless and residents of that neighborhood. Our team would go down and pray with and share the good news of Jesus with those who would come to dinner. The ministry was set up in an old parking lot and there was plenty of room for us to meet folks, pray with them and share our testimony. We met all kinds of people from every walk of life you could imagine.

One group that would come down to dinner was a group of teenagers that was led by a man named “Merlin”. He was a self-proclaimed wizard and he and the teens that followed him were heavy into occult practice and Satan Worship. This group was a coven of witches. They would come down, eat dinner, and stand across the street and try to cast spells on us and hex our prayers and ministry time.

As you can imagine, they were very unsuccessful in their demonic curses but would try to intimidate us into leaving through very loud and disturbing incantations and bizarre manifestations. We didn’t let it distract us and we continued to share the love of Jesus with the people at the dinners. This went on for a few weeks and each week we would pray for spiritual protection and then go out and love on the people of Tacoma.

One week, one of the girls who was in the coven of witches came across the street and stood directly in front of me and began to chant in an evil language I did not know. I immediately began to quote scripture and pray that this young woman would encounter the love of Jesus. She fell to the ground, began to scream in pain and I told her to call out to Jesus. She finally did and as soon as she said the name of our Lord, her body relaxed, and she stood up in her right mind.

We spent the rest of the evening praying with her and sharing the good news that Jesus loved her. The other members of this coven saw what had happened and left the ministry area and we never saw them again. This young lady ended up coming to our young adult ministry and was even water baptized. We continued to minister at this dinner ministry for another year until we lost the permit and had to disburse.

I am reminded of this story because it shows us the authority that Jesus has given to us over temptation and sin. Temptation will try to hide and intimidate us and trick us into following through with the act. Many times, it will try to get us to hide and be afraid of what we may think, is the overwhelming power of that temptation or spiritual oppression.

But we cannot forget that we have Jesus-and Jesus has us. When we are in Christ we are completely protected and have the spiritual strength to withstand any attack of Satan and his demons. They want to sidetrack and derail our relationship with Jesus. When we stand strong, resist the devil and keep our eyes focused on the Lord we will never go wrong.

Let's continue to stand strong this lent, allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen us and fill our spirits with God's Words and Promises.

I love you and God Loves You!

Pastor Eric