

LIFE LINKS

Growing Together



(Remember the point is not to get through all the questions, but to facilitate connection between each other and God's word.)

:Life:

Snow or rain, which one is better?

:Bible:

Paul is still in Ephesus this week. The gospel is being preached throughout Asia and there are miracles happening. People are being healed and demons are being cast out, with one exception. There is a group of guys, all sons of the high priest. They observing Paul casting out demons in the name of Jesus. They decide to try the same, but are met with disastrous results.

The demon responds to their attempt with a surprising statement. It says, "I know Jesus and I've heard of Paul but who are you." The man inhabited by the demon leaps upon the men, assaults them, and they flee naked.

Afterwards people turn to Jesus and how his name in high honor. They burn their magic books, a lot of them. They seek to follow Jesus because of his power over evil spirits. The Ephesian ministry is hoping very well.

When you read stories about demons in scripture are you uncomfortable? Do you find these stories hard to believe?

When Paul is writing to the church in Ephesus he tell them to put on the full armor of God and pray? What do you think it means to put on the full armor of God in your life? (Ephesians 6:10-20)

Miracles happen often in scripture. Why do you think that we don't see as many today? Or are we missing miracles that happen today?
(Deeper question: Is our disbelief or self-sufficiency a hurdle to experience God's miraculous intervention?)

Read Scripture:

Ephesians 1:15-23

[15] For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, [18] having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might [20] that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. [22] And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (ESV)

The victory that Jesus has over all things gives us the courage to not have fear in the face of evil. As a follower of Jesus we have no need to fear demons. Has there been an experience in you life that seemed off or different spiritually? Is it something that you share? Why or why not?

:Application:

Do you regularly pray for your one? Reaching out is a spiritual thing.

:Prayer Requests:

