

UPCOMING EVENTS:

AGAPE THANKSGIVING MEAL

TONIGHT!

connect@ourelement.org

RSVP for a Host Home today!

We want to encourage all of you to join us on Sunday, November 22nd for a shared meal in people's homes as we kick off our Christmas Advent Season. This will be a Thanksgiving type dinner with a time of reflection and joyful celebration.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we

ADVENT SEASON

This year at Element we are doing something we have never attempted in our few years of existence; we are celebrating a season of the church calendar called Advent. Advent is a time of sober reflection that should (and will, in our case) lead to a time of loud joy.

Advent takes place over the four weeks that lead up to Christmas, with each week being a reflection of Christmas (Christ's) fulfillment.

Daily Readings start tomorrow, Nov. 23rd

Pick up your Advent Booklet today and join an Agpae Dinner to celebrate!

may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

LEGENDS OF THE FALL

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ephesians 6:12

Genesis 3:1

Revelation 12:9

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

2 Samuel 29:4

Matthew 16:23

Luke 22:31

2 Corinthians 11:14

Revelation 20:7-8

Mark 4:15

Luke 8:12

1 Thess 2:18

1 John 4:4

Luke 10:18

John 10:28-29

Matthew 12:25-29

Matthew 12:43-45

John 10:10

Matthew 4:1-11

Luke 4:1-13

Colossians 2:15

James 1:14

Ephesians 6:10-11

1 Peter 5:8-11

Colossians 1:13-14

MY NOTES:

10

SERPENT

10 SERPENT

LEGENDS

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,
but against the rulers, against the authorities,
against the cosmic powers over this present darkness,
against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

Ephesians 6:12

This is our last week in our series called “Legends of the Fall,” where we look the “bad” guys or bad stories in the Bible. Throughout this series we have seen how we are like many of the “bad” guys we have talked about. Today we look at Lucifer, or the Devil.

When you think of Satan, what comes to mind?

What is the craziest ‘Devil’ story you have heard?

What do you think his motivation is for doing what he does?

Back when Michelle and I (Jon) were in college, there was a couple who, every time something went wrong in their relationship, the female would say, “We need to stop, we are being attacked by Satan.” Honestly, I think it was a cop out; it is easier to blame Satan for our problems than take responsibility for our own sin. The couple would blame Satan for everything, and I believe that is theologically dangerous. When we blame Satan for all of the hard things in our life and praise God for all the good, or easy things, we forget that Jesus said He will lead us through difficult times, and allow us to be broken, in order to help us grow closer to Him.

When things go wrong, do you blame someone else or take responsibility?

The scriptures call what Satan tries to do “schemes” or “designs” in 2 Cor 2:11. Some Christians wrongly believe that these designs mean that Christians can be possessed by the Devil, that is untrue (if we allow Scripture to be our guide). The word possess can mean 3 things:

- Possess can mean OWN – Can a Christian belong to Satan? NO... **John 10:28-29** tells us that nothing can take us out of God’s hand.
- Possess can mean DOMINATE – Can a Christian be controlled by a demon or Satan? No. Jesus says that this cannot happen in **Matthew 12:25-29**.
- Possess can mean INFLUENCE – Can a Christian be influenced (or oppressed)? YES. In **John 10:10** Jesus says the enemy tries to steal, kill, and destroy. Satan even tried to tempt Jesus in this way in **Matthew 4:1-11** and **Luke 4:1-13**.

Satan can NEVER take authority over a believer, but he can whisper to us those things our heart longs for that will destroy us...this is why the scriptures call them schemes.

Read 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

Where do you feel Satan is tempting you?

What do you do when you feel tempted?

How do you give in?

In what ways can/do you resist?

“Although we acknowledge the presence of Satan is real, we must also remember that we are not to fear him. Jesus says that, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me,” (Mat 28:18) and that He is, “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 (Ephesians 1:21). God has not only all of the power in the spiritual war that we wage, but he has also equipped us to go to battle with Him (Ephesians 6:10-18). We also already know the end of the war. We know that God wins the heavenly battle against Satan and his demons (Revelation 12:7-12), and that we can’t be taken from God’s hand (Rom 8:37-39).

And finally, this allows us to have more insight into effective prayer lives. Satan is living and active, but we can pray in Christ’s name to send him away. When we struggle with sin, we can pray against Satan’s lies that our sin will be better than following God. We can also pray for God to loosen Satan’s grip on our loved ones. The spiritual and eternal reality is that our main enemy is Satan, so we must pray in faith that God would work in mighty ways, for His glory, to abolish the works of the deceiver.

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. Romans 11:36” (Travis Otwal)

What does the existence of Satan mean to you?

When Jesus was attacked by Satan He didn’t argue theology, He didn’t ask for more information about what Satan was doing, He simply quoted scripture at him. Satan is alive, but we must never overestimate his power. Satan can tempt us, but it is our decision to give into it.

How can we help others not to overestimate Satan’s power?