

***Happy Independence Day!***

**Message Summary:** Denial of reality is always a dangerous thing. Many believers in Jesus experience disaster in their faith because they live in denial of a spiritual reality. We are in a spiritual battle! If you don't understand this, you will never be able to stand firm in your faith. If there was ever a time we need to stand firm as followers of Jesus it is now. Let's understand together what this looks like and stand firm together to win in Jesus Christ.

## **Spiritually and Mentally Alert in an Age of Deception**

- 1. We are alert by acknowledging we have a spiritual enemy.** 1 Peter 5:8-9
- 2. We are alert knowing there is an intentional attempt to deceive.** John 8:44
- 3. We are alert knowing God's Word reveals to us what is true.** 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 4. We are alert in obedience to experience the power of the truth.** Matthew 7:24-25

### **Group Questions: *All LifeGroups on Summer Break***

1. As followers of Jesus, we must learn how to stand firm against this spirit of deception. Why is this vital?
2. How do we process our feelings and yet not allow them to dictate our lives? What is the alternative to our feelings?
3. We experience the goodness of God the most when we walk in obedience with Him and the Word of God. Discuss a time in which you have experienced God's goodness when life felt anything but good.
4. How easy or difficult is it for you to experience peace in times of turmoil? Read Psalm 73:26-28 and John 16:31-33. How does it make you feel to know that God wants to be enough for you in times like this? What difference does His peace make in your life?

**APPLY IT-** How is God wanting you to partner with Him in your spiritual growth and journey this Summer?