

Ephesians

Lesson #24, Chapter 6:10-24

Begin this lesson by drawing near to God, asking Him to help you to understand and apply His Word to your life.

1. As we move into our final section of the book of Ephesians let's review what we have learned so far:
 - a. In one sentence, summarize Chapter 1.

 - b. In one sentence, summarize Chapter 2.

 - c. In one sentence, summarize Chapter 3.

 - d. In one sentence, summarize Chapter 4.

 - e. In one sentence, summarize Chapter 5.

 - f. And finally, in one sentence, summarize Chapter 6:1-9.

“The true Christian described in Ephesians 1–3 who lives the faithful life described in 4:1—6:9 can be sure that he will be involved in the spiritual warfare described in 6:10–20. The faithful Christian life is a battle; it is warfare on a grand scale—because when God begins to bless, Satan begins to attack.”

“If we are walking worthy of our calling, in humility rather than pride, in unity rather than divisiveness, in the new self rather than the old, in love rather than lust, in light rather than darkness, in wisdom rather than foolishness, in the fullness of the Spirit rather than the drunkenness of wine, and in mutual submission rather than self-serving independence, then we can be absolutely certain we will have opposition and conflict.”¹ ~John MacArthur

2. How does Paul begin his last comments to the Ephesian believers (verses 10-11)?

3. Explain the purpose of armor. Notice how this armor is described in verse 11.

4. Why are those preparations necessary? See verses 11-12.

5. After describing the spiritual battles we face in verses 11-12, Paul tells us exactly how we are to face the spiritual forces of wickedness. What does he tell us to do in verse 13?

6. Let’s take a closer look at the spiritual armor we are to wear from verses 14-17.

The Piece of Armor	Description of the Armor	Why was this <i>literal</i> piece of armor necessary?	Why is this piece of armor <i>spiritually</i> necessary?
1.			
2.			

¹MacArthur, John. *Ephesians*. Chicago: Moody Press, (1996, c1986). 331.

3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

When Christian came down in the morning, Watchful was waiting for him. They were to go to the Armory, Watchful said, where the four sisters would be waiting. They went quickly through the long halls richly carpeted, lit by tall, many-paned windows. Had Christian gone alone, he would have become quickly turned around, but with Watchful he was soon at the stout oak door that guarded the Armory. The wood was old and strong.

“But it seems slashed and hacked at,” observed Christian.

“Much of what you see inside has been slashed and hacked at,” answered Watchful. “This is, after all, the stuff of war.”

The first thing Christian saw inside was Discretion and her three sisters, standing quite straight and quite still. It was the kind of room where you wanted to be quiet, like an old church that makes you whisper in the half-light. The dark rafters leapt across the ceiling from one wall to the other, and from them hung bright banners depicting the stories of pilgrims to the Celestial City. (Many banners were yet blank.) On the walls hung shields and breastplates and helmets, and stacked beneath them were leggings and mailed gloves. Some of the armor was bright and new, but much of it was dented in many places and stained by old wounds.

Prudence walked to the wall and lifted off a breastplate. She brought it to Christian and strapped it on him. “To protect you against the one who wields death,” she said.

Next, Piety fitted on a helmet and leggings. “So that you may be strong in the battles before you.”

Charity gave him a broadsword. Gold embroidery twisted around its hilt, and the tempered blade felt cool to the touch.

Discretion brought a great round shield. “To avert the darts of the wicked one,” she said quietly.

Finally the sisters fitted him with a pair of gloves. He stood before them, overcome by the greatness of their gift. But there was one problem.

“I have no armor for my back,” he said.

“Do you intend to retreat and show your back to your enemies?” asked Discretion.

Then Christian understood. “No, my lady,” he said, smiling sheepishly. “I have no need of such armor.”

~Excerpt from *John Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress* retold by Gary D. Schmidt²

7. Review verses 11-17. What is the key to spiritual victory? Are you practicing those things?

²Schmidt, Gary D. *Pilgrim’s Progress: A Retelling of John Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, (1994). 27-28.

8. *When* are you engaged in a spiritual battle according to these verses? How do you *know* when you are in a spiritual battle?

9. How does understanding the truths from Question #8 change your perspective on trials and troubles, and ultimately change how you respond to them?

10. Knowing that we are soldiers engaged in a spiritual battle, what are we supposed to do? See verse 18.

11. What observations can you make about prayer from verse 18?

12. Explain the difference between *prayer* and *petition* from verse 18.

13. What does it mean to pray at all times *in the Spirit*? See Matt. 6:9-13; Rom. 8:26-27; Jude 20.

14. What is your attitude to be during prayer, dear soldier of Jesus Christ (verse 18)?

15. Define *alert* (NKJV *watchful* [Strong's #69]). Besides Ephesians 6:18, this word is used in Mark 13:33; Luke 21:36 and Heb. 13:17. Look up those references to gain added insight into the meaning of *alert*.

16. Think about the role *perseverance* plays in your prayer life. Why do we need to be encouraged to persevere in prayer? Consider Luke 11:5-13; 18:1-8 as you form your answer.

If this were the last word I had to address to this congregation, I would say to you; "dear brethren, abound in prayer, multiply the petitions and the fervour with which you present them to God." ~Charles Spurgeon³

Pray without ceasing not because the circumstances which surround you are favorable, but simply because Jesus bids you to continue in prayer. ~Charles Spurgeon⁴

17. What did Paul want the Ephesians to pray for him *above all else* (verse 19)? Why was this so important to Paul (verse 20; 3:1; 4:1; Acts 9:15)?

18. Paul asks for boldness in proclaiming the Gospel. How is that an encouragement to you to know that the Apostle Paul asked prayer for boldness to witness about Christ?

19. What would you want people to pray for you *above all else*? Why is that so important to you?

³Spurgeon, Charles. *Nuggets of Gold: 2001 Spurgeon Quotes*. Compiled by George Burch. Greenville, SC: Ambassador-Emerald International, (1999). 122.

⁴Ibid. 124.

20. What do you learn about Tychicus and his purpose from verses 21-22? See also Acts 20:4; Col. 4:7-8; 2 Tim. 4:12; Titus 3:12.

21. What is Paul's final benediction to the Ephesian believers (verses 23-24)?

22. List 5 words that come to your mind when you think about the book of Ephesians.

23. How has your walk with the Lord grown from your study of the book of Ephesians?

Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with a love incorruptible.
Amen!