

Ephesians 6.18-24

Ephesians 6¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.²¹ So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything.²² I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.²³ Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.²⁴ Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

Ephesians 6.10-24

"Our Only Strength"

Jeremiah 9.23,24 "This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD."

James 4.7,8 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you"

We should be aware of the devil, but impressed with God...

1. Impressed with God's Person

a. Truth

4.21 "Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus."

John 14.6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth

6.14 "Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist"

4.13 “until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”

4.25 “speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body”

b. Love

2.4 “his great love for us”

4.15 “speaking the truth in love”

2.8 “For it is by grace you have been saved”

3.17-19 “I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge”

c. Holiness

4.24 “put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness”

5.5 “For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”

5.8 “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light”

2. Impressed with God's Power

a. In Christ

1.18-20 “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know....his incomparably great power... That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.”

4.8 "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."

b. In Us

1.19 "his incomparably great power for us who believe"

2.1 "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins"

2.5,6 "God in mercy made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions...God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus"

3.20 "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us"

6.10 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God"

2 Corinthians 12.9 "(God's) power is made perfect in weakness."

Philippians 4.13 "I can do everything through him who gives me strength"

3. Impressed with God's Plan

a. from Eternity to Eternity

1.9-11 "And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will"

2.10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

John 15.14,15 “You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

b. Transforming Evil

1.19,20 “his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead”

2.4,5 “God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions”

2.13,14 “now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility”

6.7,9 “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men And masters...know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.”

Gen 50.20 “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

Romans 8.28 “we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

4. Impressed with God's Presence

Matthew 28.18,20 “Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

a. Prayer

1.16 “I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.”

6.18 “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

b. Salvation

1.13,14 “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.”

2.10 “For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Acts 19.17-20 “When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.”

c. Healing

2.15,16 “His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.”

4.31 “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.”

Acts 19.11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.”

Matthew 12.28 ‘But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.’”

d. Joy

1.18 “that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints”

5.18-20 “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Nehemiah 8.10 "for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Romans 15.13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

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Ephesians 1.1 – 6.24

“An Overview”

1. God’s Plan

a. All Loving

1.4,5 “In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons”

2.4 “his great love for us”

3.17-19 “being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love”

5.1,2 “as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us”

b. All Wise

1.4 “before the creation of the world”

1.8 “all wisdom and understanding”

1.17 “the Spirit of wisdom and revelation”

4.21 “the truth that is in Jesus”

2.10 “For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

c. All Powerful

1.19,20 “his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead”

2.4,5 “God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions”

3.20 “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us”

6.10 “be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power”

d. Therefore, believers in God have all Confidence

1.1 “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God”

3.1 “Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus”

4.1 “a prisoner for the Lord”

5.21 “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

6.5-8 “Slaves, obey... like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.”

Romans 8.28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Genesis 50.20 Joseph said to them, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

2. God’s Person – His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ

a. God’s Plan Accomplished through Him

1.9,10 “the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ”

1.22 “God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church”

3.11 “his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord”

4.10 “He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.”

4.15 “we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.”

5.20 “always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”

b. God’s People United to Him

1) Everything God does for us is because of Jesus

27 times in this letter Paul uses a phrase like “in Him”

1.3 “every spiritual blessing in Christ”

1.4 “he chose us in him”

1.5 “he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ”

1.6 “grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves”

2) Everything Changes when we Know Christ

2.1 “you were dead in your transgressions and sins”

2.4,5 “God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ”

2.2 “you followed the ways of this world”

1.18 “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints”

2.2 “you followed... the ruler of the kingdom of the air”

2.6 “God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus”

2.12 “without hope and without God in the world”

2.10 “we God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works”

2.13 “you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ”

2.19 “you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household”

3) Wondrous Union

5.32 “This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.”

4) Eternal Union

6.24 “Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.”

c. God's People must be Like Christ

4.13 “become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”

4.22-24 “put off your old self...put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness”

4.32 “forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”

5.2 “live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us”

5.25 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church”

6.1 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord”

6.5,6 “Slaves, obey...just as you would obey Christ... like slaves of Christ”

3. God’s People

a. Revelation of the Mystery

3.6 “This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”

2.14 “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier”

2.19,20 “you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,
built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone”

b. Revelation of the Master

3.10 “His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms”

4.1 “live a life worthy of the calling you have received”

4.17 “you must no longer live as the Gentiles do”

5.2 “live a life of love”

5.8 “Live as children of light”

5.15 “Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise”

5.19,20 “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”

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Reflection Questions from Ephesians

1. Do I really know God’s Son, the Lord Jesus, as Savior?
2. Am I growing in my relationship with Him? What are the evidences of this knowledge and growth?
3. Do I know there is no limit to His love for me? Or do I doubt whether He even cares?
4. Do I question God’s wisdom? Or do I have confidence to rest in His sovereign plan?
5. Do I believe He has all power and gladly submit to Him?
6. Am I striving to submit to His Lordship in every area of my life; especially in marriage, with children, my work, and in all my contacts with the world?
7. Am I happy to be part of the Body of Christ - joined eternally with all those who love the Lord?
8. Am I actively doing all I can to maintain the unity of the Church in general, and my home church in particular?
9. What specific changes must I now put into place because God has spoken to me through the book of Ephesians; in my walk with God, in my family, in my work, in all my contacts with unbelievers, and my church involvement?
10. When will I implement the changes I need to make? Who will I ask to hold me accountable in my efforts?

