

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 05 Sep ..... Eph 1:1-14 ..... God’s Plan is Eternal
- 2) 12 Sep ..... Eph 1:15-23 ..... God’s Plan Involves Power
- 3) 19 Sept ..... Eph 2:1-10 ..... God’s Power Changes People
- 4) 26 Sep ..... Eph 2:11-22 ... God’s Power Changes Relationships
- 5) 03 Oct ..... Eph 3:1-13 ..... God’s Power Comes by Grace
- 6) 10 Oct ..... Eph 3:14-21 ..... God’s Power Provides Strength
- 7) 17 Oct ..... Eph 4:1-16 ..... Being in Step
- 8) 24 Oct ..... Eph 4:17-32 ..... Being Different
- 9) 31 Oct ..... Eph 5:1-14 ..... Being Pure
- 10) 07 Nov ..... Eph 5:15-21 ..... Being Careful
- 11) 14 Nov ..... Eph 5:22-33 ..... Being Married
- 12) 21 Nov ..... Eph 6:1-9 ..... Being Respectful
- 13) 28 Nov ..... Eph 6:10-24 ..... **Being Prepared**

**INTRODUCTION**

- God wants to answer our prayers, but only if they are aligned to His will. Can we do this? ABSOLUTELY!
- Is God’s armor only for a few or for all? How do we put it on and for how long? Does it really work?

Passage	Comments
Eph 6:10	<p><b>Be Strong in the Lord</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nice words, but HOW?</li> <li>• Wouldn’t it be better to be strong with money?</li> <li>• God wants us strong not in our strengths, but in His almighty Strength – but HOW?</li> <li>• Such godly strength only comes through “abiding in Him” through diligent praying &amp; obedience</li> <li>• For most of us obeying the law is relatively easy</li> <li>• It’s the constant, diligent praying part that’s tough</li> <li>• Like lifting weights, obedience makes us stronger in our faith, but where’s the strategy</li> <li>• Praying is the strategy part to answer why we need to be stronger, for what purpose...</li> </ul>
6:11-13	<p><b>God’s Armor is Defensive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God doesn’t need us to fight His battles, but He wants us to take a firm stand against wickedness</li> <li>• Here’s the Big Picture → Life is not about what we can see, but what we cannot see</li> <li>• This invisible onslaught on us, on our society, on the whole world should drive us to our knees</li> </ul>
6:14-17	<p><b>ARMOR → Truth, Righteousness, Gospel of Peace, Faith, Our Salvation, and God’s Word</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to wear the armor 24x7</li> <li>• What happens if we remove some armor?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Truth</b> – Tell a lie and your reputation is ruined</li> <li>♦ <b>Righteousness</b> – Be wicked &amp; you have no reputation</li> <li>♦ <b>Gospel of Peace</b> – If we have a gospel of hate or indifference, who’s going to listen to us?</li> <li>♦ <b>Faith</b> – If we go our own way without God, it’s like fighting a fire just in your underwear – you won’t last long</li> <li>♦ <b>Salvation</b> – If we fight without being a citizen, there is little motivation to hang tough</li> <li>♦ <b>God’s Word</b> – Without it we have no Truth, Righteousness, the Gospel, Faith, or Salvation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6:18-20	<p><b>Here’s the Praying Part</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praying in the Spirit does not mean praying in tongues or with ‘vain repetitions’</li> <li>• It means praying in God’s will so you will know you will get a positive answer</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• And knowing God’s will was covered in a previous lesson, and it begins with obedience</li> <li>• To “pray at all times in the Spirit” doesn’t mean to be on your knees 24x7, but to have a right relationship with God 24x7, and when you do pray (which should be with eagerness) it will be after God’s will</li> <li>• To “be on the alert” means we be diligent with our praying (thoughtful, watchful) .....Rom 12:12</li> <li>• v19. Even Paul needed to be prayed for. We are not in this game alone.</li> <li>• God chooses to use our prayers as a means to accomplish His Kingdom work</li> </ul>
6:21-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tychicus was another faithful servant to Paul like Timothy and Titus .. Act 20:4; Col 4:7; 2Tim 4:12</li> <li>• Do churches need more Pastors or do we need more people like Timothy, Titus, Tychicus, Aquilla and Priscilla, and Dorcas?</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:**

- If more of us were to put on God’s armor and keep it on, WOW, what a life we would live
- Can you imagine having a prayer life so aligned with God’s will you look forward to praying each and every day – morning, noon and night ..... Ps 55:17
- There is no greater motivation to pray than to see our prayers answered. If they are not getting answered then we need to align ourselves better with God’s will

**SUPPORTING PASSAGES:**

Ps 55:17 Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.  
 Rom 12:12 ...continuing steadfastly in prayer.

**NEXT WEEK:** 1Kings 1-4. King David passes the mantel to his son Solomon, and Israel expands to its fullest range

**The Back Pew – Jeff Larson**



**‘FEARLESS’ even when the heat is on. Eph 6:11**