

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

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

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