

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Ephesians 6:18-24

Lesson 20

As we arrive at Paul's closing statements, we find him dwelling on what is most essential - prayer. He exhorts the believers to pray for themselves, for all the saints, and for him. Then, he wraps it all up in his prayer for them - a prayer for *peace, love* and *grace* - all made possible by our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen!

DAY ONE: Read Ephesians 6:18-24

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. Ephesians 6:18-24 has been divided into two sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 18-20

Verses 21-24

How would you title each section? Note: The paragraph division which includes verses 18-20 begins with Ephesians 6:10. Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

Now record a title for the sixth chapter of Ephesians.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the keywords listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus, and Spirit

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Ephesians 6:18-24. Remember, as you mark these words, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them.

3. The word *that* is used six times in Ephesians 6:18-24. Underline each time the word is used.
 - a. Paul used the word *that* to express his desires for their prayers and to explain why he was sending *Tychicus* to Ephesus. Scan through the text and make a list of the explanations that follow each use of the word *that*.

- 1.) If this was all you knew about Paul, how would you describe him?

DAY TWO: Read Ephesians 6:18 - Praying Always

1. Now that the soldier is dressed for battle in all of his armor, Paul adds two things in verse 18 that the believer should also do in order to be fully prepared for warfare. What is the first instruction?
2. What word does Paul use to express how often we are to *pray*?
 - a. What similar word is used in Romans 12:12 and Colossians 4:2?
 - 1.) Realistically, we cannot be *always* praying or praying *without ceasing*. In a practical sense, what do you think Paul is telling us to do?
 - a.) What are the advantages of this kind of *praying*?
3. *Prayer* refers to all kinds of prayer including praise and thanksgiving. It basically means "praying to God". *Supplication* refers to specific requests, which includes praying for yourself and for others. 1 Kings 8:52 records a prayer of Solomon as he dedicated the temple. What did he pray?
 - a. We can read God's response to Solomon's prayer in 1 Kings 9:3. What was it?
4. What does it mean to you that God wants you to pray for yourself; to take your personal needs to Him?
5. The three words which follow the word *supplication* in Ephesians 6:18 help us to determine how we can pray for ourselves, yet pray unselfishly. What are they?
 - a. What does Romans 8:26,27 say about this?

b. Praying *in the Spirit* may be referring to praying in tongues. However, this is probably only one way to pray *in the Spirit*. A better explanation might be that *praying in the Spirit* is praying according to the leading of the Holy Spirit, or in accordance with the Holy Spirit, or in the power of the Holy Spirit. Why is it important to pray *in the Spirit*?

1.) According to 1 John 5:14,15, what is the promised result of *praying in the Spirit* (*asking according to God's will*)?

a.) How does this differ from praying according to your own will?

DAY THREE: Read Ephesians 6:18 - Being Watchful

1. Paul includes with his instruction to pray, an additional command. What are we to do?

a. List some synonyms for the word *watchful*.

b. List some antonyms for the word *watchful*.

2. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to *watch* in Matthew 26:41?

a. What other instruction did he give them?

3. Often, the words *watch* and *pray* are linked together. Consider the following verses by recording what they say about this:

Colossians 4:2

1 Peter 4:7

a. Describe what you think it means to *be watchful in your prayers*.

1.) What does the word *perseverance* add to your understanding of this instruction?

2.) How might this attitude (*being watchful to this end with all perseverance*) cause a believer to *stand against the wiles of the devil* (Ephesians 6:11)?

4. In addition to making *supplication* in our prayers for ourselves, who are we also to pray for?
Ephesians 6:18b
 - a. What are some things we might pray for other *saints*?
 - 1.) This verse should challenge us to pray, not only for *saints* we know, but for those we do not know. Who (or what ministry) will you either pray more for or begin praying for?

DAY FOUR: Read Ephesians 6:19-20

1. In Ephesians 6:19, Paul asked that they add him to their prayer list. What was his request?
 - a. The word *utterance* is the Greek word *logos* meaning word or speech. Given this definition, what do you think Paul means by writing *that utterance may be given to me*?
 - 1.) What have you learned about depending on the Lord to give you the words to say?
2. Paul desired *boldness to make known the mystery of the gospel*. In your own words, define the word *boldness*.
 - a. What can we learn about Paul's *boldness* from the following verses?
2 Corinthians 3:12

Philippians 1:20

1 Thessalonians 2:2
 - b. What components make the difference between *boldness* and timidity in your life?

DAY FIVE: Read Ephesians 6:21-24

1. Paul revealed his care and concern for the believers in Ephesus by sending *Tychicus* to them. According to verses 21,22 what was *Tychicus* to do?
 - a. Paul was writing this letter from prison in Rome. What might have been some of their concerns?
 - b. Why might they need to be *comforted*?
2. Read Paul's instructions to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:9-12. Meditate on Paul's loneliness. Yet rather than keep *Tychicus* with him, what does verse 12 say Paul did?
 - a. What does this say to you about Paul's love for other believers?
 - 1.) How does this establish his credibility?
3. Read the closing verses (23,24) of this incredible letter. What does Paul desire for those he ministered to?
 - a. *Love* and *faith* are often linked together in Scripture. Consider the verses below. What do you think the connection is between love and faith?

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. Galatians 5:6

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 2 Thessalonians 1:3
4. *Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.* Why is *sincerity* essential if we are to know the *grace* of God?

DAY SIX: Review Ephesians 6:18-24

1. As you studied this lesson, what did you learn about:

prayer

being watchful

2. Although *prayer* is not mentioned as a specific piece of armor, how is the believer protected as a result of her prayers?

- a. What are some results of forsaking *prayer*?

3. The Bible often mentions the importance of *supplication*. Since God knows our needs, why is this so important?

4. Share something about the character of Paul, as revealed in these verses, that has challenged you.

5. This letter to the Ephesians has been rich with doctrine and practical application. As you think about all you have learned in this letter, what are some of your impressions?

*I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord,
beseech you to walk worthy of the calling
with which you were called,*

- Ephesians 4:1