

Ephesians 6:1 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*

Paul is now transitioning into the walk between children and their parents. He had just concluded the marriage union and is now moving into another union within the household.

Ephesians 6:2 "honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:

The word honor in this verse in Greek is *timao* and means to value or revere. Paul is about to state that when we value our parents it comes with a promise.

Ephesians 6:3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

A child honoring their father and mother has benefits that include long life and it being well with you.

Ephesians 6:4 *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

This particularly points out fathers to not provoke their children. It is possible to push our children to a place of rebellion but there is a proper way to train our children. The word admonition in Greek is *nouthesia* and means a mild rebuke or warning.

Ephesians 6:5 *Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;*

Paul has now moved into the practical side of Christ living in us and how it should not only affect marriage, parenting, but also the workplace. We should respect our employer and our place of employment. We are able to do this now through God's ability in us. Our born again spirit is perfect (Heb 12:23) and able to release the life of God at all times.

Ephesians 6:6 *not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,*

Eye service in the American dictionary is referring to work or service done only when the employer is watching. A man pleaser seeks to please man. Paul knew a lot about this. In Galatians 1:10, Paul encountered the church of Galatia that had once put faith in Jesus solely but were moving into mixing Jesus plus them through the Judaizers and he said, "Am I now trying to win the approval of humans beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If we were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ" (Gal 1:10).

If Paul considered man's opinion, he would not have been able to advance the gospel because he encountered opposition wherever he went (Acts 20:23, Acts 5:29). Paul never let those things move him.

Ephesians 6:7 *with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,*

We should work as unto the Lord, not our employer. If we know that our promotion doesn't come from man but from the Lord (Ps 75:6-7) it changes the way we are in the work place. It allows even if we are treated unfairly to respond differently. We will always reap what we sow but we may not always reap where we sow.

Ephesians 6:8 *knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.*

This says knowing. The Greek word for knowing in this verse is eido and can mean to be sure. We must be sure that whatever good we do we will receive the same from the Lord. When we know this, it changes the way we function in the workplace. God is our source, not man.

Ephesians 6:9 *And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.*

Now, Paul is admonishing masters or employers on how to treat their workers. He just spoke of how employees are to act towards their employer but he does not leave out the other way around. God treats everyone the same and shows no personal favoritism to no man (Gal 2:6).

Ephesians 6:10 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

Paul is closing his letter saying we need to be strong in the Lord. We are not to be strong in our strength and ability. We have a new identity with the very life of God inside of us (1 John 4:15) and as Paul already mentioned we have access to all Gods power (Eph 1:18).

The Amplified Classic version translates this verse as being empowered through your union with Him. It is only through our union with Christ can we possess victory.

Paul discusses why we need to be strong in the next verse. Romans chapter 7 speaks of our inability to serve God in our flesh and how powerless we were before salvation. He does not leave us in a helpless state but moves into chapter 8 that discusses the victory of Christ in us and our ability now to walk free from sin and anything else that tries to come against us.

Ephesians 6:11 *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

In the closing of his letter to the Ephesians, Paul concludes with something most people start with. The first three chapters of the book of Ephesians, Paul speaks on our new identity in Christ, what already belongs to us, and how all of Heaven's resources are available to us. Chapters 4-6 discuss our response to what God has done and how to walk out who we are. God gives (chapters 1-3) and we receive (chapters 4-6) and by the way there is an enemy (chapter 6).

Many Christian's talk so much about what the devil is doing but Paul inserts him last. He lists 6 pieces of armor that include loins girt with the truth (belt of truth), breastplate of righteousness, shoes with the preparation of the gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit (Word of God). We are to put on the whole armor not just the helmet of salvation.

This verse also commands us to put the armor on, God won't put it on for us. Before we ever put the armor on, we need to know who is inside the armor to be affective. We can put the armor on everyday but if we do not know who we are in Christ, it will not matter. A person can put a pilot suit on every day, but that does not make him a pilot. He knows who he is, then he can get dressed.

In context Paul is writing to the church of Ephesus that could relate to him mentioning soldiers and armor because Paul was very familiar with the Roman soldiers during his day as he was in prison writing this

letter and often chained to the guards. Paul lived in the greatest presence of military power anyone had seen but that did not move him. Remember, Paul stated his was a prisoner of Christ, not Rome (Eph 3:1).

The word wiles in Greek is methodia and means trickery, wiles, or lie. The only thing the enemy can do is deceive us. He can only do what we allow but we are not ignorant of his devices so he cannot take advantage of us (2 Cor 2:11).

Ephesians 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

There are four ranks in the demonic realm. In this verse Paul tells us who our battle is against and where it is. Our battle is in the spiritual realm and it is not against people. Our spouse, coworkers, and children are not our problem. The enemy is a spirit and needs a physical body to have his will come to pass. He will flow through people but if we recognize the true battle is with our adversary the devil (1 Peter 5:8) we will not fall into the trap of being offended or hurt by people.

It is also important to note that our wrestle is not with God. Many times, we think we have to bombard heaven to get God to move or when tragedy strikes, we ask why God either did this to us or allowed it to happen. God is for us not against us (Rom 8:31) and true opposition that comes is with the enemy.

The moment someone puts faith in the Lord Jesus, we enlist and enter into battle.

Ephesians 6:13 *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

Because the battle is in the spiritual realm and Paul just stated in the previous verse where it is and who it is with, this is the reason we put on the whole armor of God. This is the third time Paul tells us to stand. The word stand is histemi in Greek and means to be established or set. When we have fully put on the whole armor of God we are to take our position; which is who we are in Christ and continue to be established and set. The enemy is a spirit and we are a spirit. Our born-again spirits are identical to Jesus now, so when he sees us, he does not see us, he sees Jesus. Through our union with Christ, we have the fruit of the spirit in us and one being long-suffering which is the ability to endure under pressure.

We are to put on the armor of God so we can stand. If we are being dominated by our circumstances and allowing the enemy to bully us, we are more than likely not fully dressed.

Ephesians 6:14 *Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,*

Now Paul goes into telling us how to stand and what the armor entails. We should gird our waist with truth. The word gird in Greek is perizonnumi and means to fasten on one's belt. This piece of armor is also known as the belt of truth but what is truth? God's word is truth (Jn 17:17) and the Bible is our lie detector. Paul had just spoken about the enemies' tactics to come with lies; here is our piece of armor against it.

This piece of armor for a Roman soldier was used to bind or hold together the rest of his armor. Truth is the core of the Christian walk. When we know truth, we will not be deceived and taken captive by the devil (2 Tim 2:24).

The breastplate of righteousness is vital to put on because it one of the greatest tactics the enemy uses to throw at us and say that we are not good enough and try to condemn us when we fall short. When he says we are not good enough, he is right but only if we are not in Christ. The problem for the enemy now is that we are in Christ and Gods righteousness has been imputed to us so now we are worthy and accepted (2 Cor 5:21, Eph 1:6). Jesus came to fulfill all righteousness on my behalf because I couldn't (Mt 3:15) and take my sin and gives me His righteousness; this is the Great Exchange. The Holy Spirit is constantly reminding us of our righteous position with the Father (Jn 16:8).

The Roman soldier would use a breast plate to protect their heart or other vital functions. The breastplate of righteousness is to guard our heart. Out of our heart springs the issues of life and the breast plate will guard us in this spiritual warfare we are in.

Ephesians 6:15 *and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

Having our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace seems to be a piece of armor that many churches today are preaching however; that is not the case. The word gospel in Greek is euaggelion and means good message or news. The good news is that there is no longer a veil or separation between God and His people because His son removed the barrier (Matt 27:51). We have been justified with God and are at peace with Him (Rom 5:1) and it is knowing this that we should be spreading the Good News. Drawing people to the Lord through fear may get some results, but Gods way is through love (Rom 2:4). It is easier to draw people with honey than it is gasoline. The word peace in the Greek is eirene and means rest. Anytime we try to earn Gods favor the by product will be working and striving but if we get a revelation of God being at peace with us because of Jesus' obedience and not our own, the fruit will be rest. We will be stable and secure because our covenant with God is not conditional towards what we do, it is what Jesus has done.

The sandals for the Roman soldiers' feet were composed of thick leather soles studded with iron cleats. This equipped the soldiers to be firm in their positions and also were made so that the soldiers could progress forward against their enemy and not backwards. We should have a solid foundation with the good news of being in a dispensation of Gods peace extended towards us that we are not retreating and falling back into condemnation (Gal 5:1).

Ephesians 6:16 *above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*

For the Roman soldiers, their shield was the length of a long door and made with wood. It protected the soldier from head to toe while the enemy would throw darts that were meant to set the Roman soldiers on fire. Paul is using this to illustrate how our enemy throws fiery darts at us and those are through words. The word quench in this verse in Greek is sbennumi and means to extinguish. How do we extinguish his darts?

"He that believeth on me, as the scriptures hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (Jn 7:38). In the natural the way any fire is put out is through water. Now that we have the Holy Spirit in us and He has empowered us it is through our words back that will quench or extinguish the enemies' schemes over our lives. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Lk 6:45). The word now dwells us in (1 Jn 2:14) and should be coming out of mouth.

Ephesians 6:17 *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

The helmet was made of leather and protected the head of the Roman soldier. The enemies' tactics are always fired through our mind. His ability is suggestion and wants us to question has God said? Is God

good? He has no power to make anyone do anything. What he can do though is get us to doubt God and we will either win or lose based on the mind. The battle is in our soul and he does this through lies.

The word taken here in Greek is *dechomai* and means to receive. Salvation is a gift and only to be received. No amount of good works can earn your salvation.

The sword is our only offensive weapon. We are in a spiritual battle and the Lord has told us our spiritual weapon which is His Word. No amount of therapy, new age thinking, or philosophy can combat the enemies' tactics. During Jesus' earthly ministry this is how he responded to temptation from the enemy. Jesus only spoke the Word to the enemy (Mt 4:4). The word is alive and active sharper than any two-edge sword (Heb 4:12).

Ephesians 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

Paul lived with a consistent prayer life. Much of his prayer life was praying in the spirit. He himself said he prayed in tongues more than to all (1 Cor 14:18). Our prayer language is a powerful force that not only helps us to make intercession and pray the perfect will of God when we know not what to pray (Rom 8:26) but we also edify ourselves and build ourselves up (1 Cor 14:2, Jude 20).

Ephesians 6:19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Paul did not shrink back in the face of opposition. He received the gospel directly from the Lord even when he went to meet the pillars of the church, he did not waiver on the message of the mystery Christ that had been revealed directly to him (Gal 1:12, Eph 3:3). Where did this boldness come from? His relationship with the Lord. Paul was so dead to himself and found his identity in Christ that he could not be intimidated (Gal 2:20). It is impossible to intimidate a dead person.

Ephesians 6:20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

The word ambassador in Greek is *presbeuo* and means to act as a representative. Who was Paul representing? Jesus. In legal terms someone who is in the position of a power of attorney is to act on another's behalf and stands in the place of the person they are representing. The opposing parties must treat the power of attorney as if they are the actual person the power of attorney is representing. The enemy has to respond to us the way he would respond to Jesus if we stand in our authority and know who we are. We are Jesus' power of attorney while on this earth and His will does not come to pass outside of us. Jesus said His church (us) would do greater works than he did (Jn 14:12). Many believers agree we should represent Jesus by being kind and loving others but the Gospel includes healing the sick, and casting out devils. The church has failed to represent Jesus to the world in our full commission. Whatever we saw Jesus doing we now are able to do the same.

Ephesians 6:21 But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you;

Paul wanted the Ephesians to know his current condition. It is interesting to note that Paul was in prison and writing a letter not of sorrow or complaining, but to establish this church in the identity in Christ and their maturity in the faith.

Tychicus was mentioned three other times in the New Testament (Act 20:4, 2 Tim 4:12, Tit 3:12). Paul sent Tychicus to Ephesus to share how he was doing with them. He was a fellow companion to Paul whom he trusted.

Ephesians 6:22 *whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts.*

Paul's purpose for sending Tychicus to Ephesus was so they could know his circumstances and to comfort their hearts. Paul's focus was not on himself and his condition but comforting others. One of the best ways to dismantle grief and depression is to get our eyes off ourselves and on to other people.

Ephesians 6:23 *Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Peace and love come from God and our Lord Jesus. In our flesh dwells no good thing (Rom 7:18) and it is impossible to love someone and have peace without first receiving the source of that love.

Ephesians 6:24 *Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.*

Paul concludes with his greatest theme. Grace which is with us all.