

Gleanings of Grace

Ephesians 6

Lesson 10

Ephesians 6 describes the life of the one who is submitted, not only to the authorities of man, but primarily to the Lord. This life chooses to do the *will of God from the heart*. This life understands the battle we are engaged in is not that of flesh, but of the spiritual realm and thus only in *putting on the armor of God* can we remain standing when our enemy is fighting to pull us down. As you study, may you see not only the importance of walking as Paul has called us to walk, but the victories we can achieve if we choose to.

OBSERVATION: Read Ephesians 6

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* (the Father), *Jesus*, and *Holy Spirit*.
Key Words: *God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit*
Also, mark the following in the same way: *put/having/take*
3. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used two times in this chapter. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what it is based upon.
4. The contrasting word *but* is used four times in Ephesians 6. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Background:

1. The first three chapters of Ephesians reveal many of the blessings that God has bestowed upon the believer. The last three chapters encourage believers regarding our response to what God has done for us. According to the following verses, what do all believers have?

Ephesians 1:3

Ephesians 1:7

Ephesians 1:9

Ephesians 1:11

Ephesians 1:13

Ephesians 2:1

Ephesians 2:6,7

Ephesians 2:10

Ephesians 3:16

Ephesians 3:19

- a. What is your response to all God has provided for you?

2. Ephesians 4:1 begins with the word *therefore*. Because of what God has done for us, what does Paul *beseech* us to do?

- a. Paul repeatedly used the word *walk* in Ephesians 4,5. In addition to Ephesians 4:1, in what ways does he challenge us to *walk*?

Ephesians 4:17

Ephesians 5:8

Ephesians 5:2

Ephesians 5:15

3. In what ways does knowing what God has done for you inspire you to want to *walk* in a way that pleases Him?

Read Ephesians 6:1-9 - Honoring Our Authority

1. Ephesians 5 closes with instructions to wives and husbands as well as *submitting to one another*. Ephesians 6 continues with an exhortation to honor authority. The first people addressed are *children* and *parents*. What are *children* commanded to do?

- a. Describe your understanding of the word *honor*.
 - b. Why are *children to honor their mother and father*?
 - c. Lest a *father* misuse his authority, what is he reminded in verse 4 to:
not do:
 - 1.) What are some examples of this?do:
 - 2.) What are some examples of this?
2. Ephesians 6:5-9 contain instructions to *bondservants* and their *masters*. For our purposes, let's look at this as the employee and employer or supervisor relationships. Summarize the words written to *bondservants* (verses 5-7).
 - a. Again, the Lord does not intend that any authority be misused. Summarize the words written to *masters* (verse 9).
 - b. Ephesians 6:8 applies both to *bondservants* and *masters*. What does it remind us?
 - 1.) What is the promise of Proverbs 11:18?
 3. Read Mathew 20:25-28. How is Jesus' standard for authority contrary to the world's view of authority?
 4. What does it mean to you that God, knowing each of us so very well, does not show favoritism or rank social status?

Read Ephesians 6:10-13 - Identifying Our Enemy

1. Paul is beginning to wrap up this letter to the Ephesians. What does he tell them to *be strong in*?
 - a. What was Paul's prayer for believers in Ephesians 1:19 and 3:16?
 - 1.) What does it mean to be *strong in the LORD*?

2. Paul will be more specific about the *armor of God* in the next few verses. Using both Ephesians 6:11 and 13, what does he say we *will be able* to do when we *put on the whole armor of God*?
 - a. Define the word *wiles*.
 - 1.) What are some examples of *wiles of the devil*?
4. What is the warning of 1 Peter 5:8?
 - a. How does knowing the devil is seeking *to devour* you cause you to see your need to put on the whole armor of God?
5. The armor of God is not physical armor. It is spiritual armor. We must fight with armor appropriate for the battle. Why would physical armor fail to protect us in the battles we face spiritually? See verse 12.

Read Ephesians 6:14-17 - Fighting Our Enemy

1. We are to put on the *whole armor of God*. Read Ephesians 6:14-17 and list the six pieces of armor we are to put on.
 - a. To aid you in remembering each piece, draw a stick figure and clothe her with each piece of armor. To allow enough room, draw your figure sideways.
2. **Belt of Truth.** What does Psalm 91:4 teach about *truth*?
 - a. How would the application of God's *truth* against a lie of the enemy help you to *stand*?
3. **Breastplate of Righteousness.** Consider the words of Psalm 71:16. What would you *mention* about the Lord's *righteousness* that would help you *stand* in times of struggle, especially guilt? Note: in considering His *righteousness*, factor in the truth of Romans 3:24 (*righteousness* = being declared right with God or *justified*).
4. **Gospel of Peace.** How would the application of Colossians 3:15 cause you to *stand* in the midst of turmoil?

5. **Shield of Faith.** Proverbs 18:10 describes what those who have *faith do*. What do they do?
 - a. How does *running to* or trusting in the *name* (character, promises) of the LORD keep us *safe from the wiles of the devil*?
 - b. What do you think it means to *quench the fiery darts of the wicked one*?

6. **Helmet of Salvation.** 1 Thessalonians 5:8 refers to *salvation* as our *hope*. What hope do you have because you are *saved*?
 - a. How does knowing you are *saved* and all that God promises because you are *saved*, help you in times of trial?

7. **The Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God).** Matthew 4 describes the time that the devil tried to tempt Jesus in the wilderness. Jesus countered the offers of the enemy with the *word of God*. According to Matthew 4:11, what was the result?

8. What do you think Paul wants us to understand about the armor?

Read Ephesians 6:18-24 - Praying Against Our Enemy

1. In addition to putting on the whole armor of God, Paul launched into a call to *pray*. He included with his instruction to pray a command to be *watchful*. List some synonyms for the word *watchful*.
 - a. 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?

Read Ephesians 6:19-24 – That Your Hearts Be Comforted

1. In Ephesians 6:19, Paul asked that they add him to their prayer list. What was his request?
 - a. What have you learned about depending on the Lord to give you the words to say?

 - b. What components make the difference between boldness and timidity in your life?

2. In Ephesians 6:21, Paul identified himself as an *ambassador in chains*, referring to the fact that he was writing from prison. Although in prison, what was one of Paul’s intents for writing to the church in Ephesus? Verse 22
 - a. In what way does this speak to you?

REVIEW: Ephesians 6

1. Share some things you have gleaned from your study of Ephesians 6.

*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal
but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, - 2 Corinthians 10:4*

Observation Worksheet

Ephesians 6:1-24

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." ⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. 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; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. 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. ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 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-- 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, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. 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; ²² whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts. ²³ Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.