



KNOWING CHRIST

Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

LIVING IN CHRIST

Ephesians 6:1-24

Inductive Discovery Lesson 13

When Paul began this letter, he told the Ephesians why he wrote and what his prayer was for them. *I'm asking God to open the eyes of your heart...so you will get to know Him better...so you will see His plan for you...so you will realize the rich blessings He has given you! And I pray you will begin to understand that God's power—the same power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at God's right hand—is available to us who believe in Him.*

Paul talked about why the church exists and how we grow as a body. He spelled out, in practical examples and straightforward instructions, how to walk worthy of our calling. All through this letter, Paul's heart is to help Christians know that living in Christ is a high calling and a daily process. Everything we need has been supplied for us—including the strength we need for the unseen battle we are all engaged in.

Working Text for Ephesians 6:1-24

New International Version (NIV)

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **2** “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— **3** “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. **6** Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. **7** Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, **8** because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him.

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. **19** Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

21 Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. **22** I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you. **23** Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **24** Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Ephesians 6:1-9

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Ephesians 6:10-17

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Facts from the passage:

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Facts from the passage:

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper designed for handwriting practice. It features two vertical columns of horizontal lines. Each column contains ten sets of three lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. The columns are separated by a central vertical margin. There are no margins at the top or bottom of the page.

Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Ephesians 6:1-24

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“**obey, obedient**” (vs.1, 5) _____

“be **strong** in the Lord” (vs.10) _____

“be able to **withstand** in the evil day” (vs.13) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to ***put it into action***.

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Ephesians 6:1-9

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Ephesians 6:10-17

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Ephesians 6:18-24

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

**...be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.
Put on the full armor of God, so that you may be able to
stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**

Ephesians 6:10-11 (NAS)

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

To be entirely safe from the devil's snares the man of God must be completely obedient to the Word of the Lord. The driver on the highway is safe, not when he reads the signs but when he obeys them.¹

- A.W. Tozer

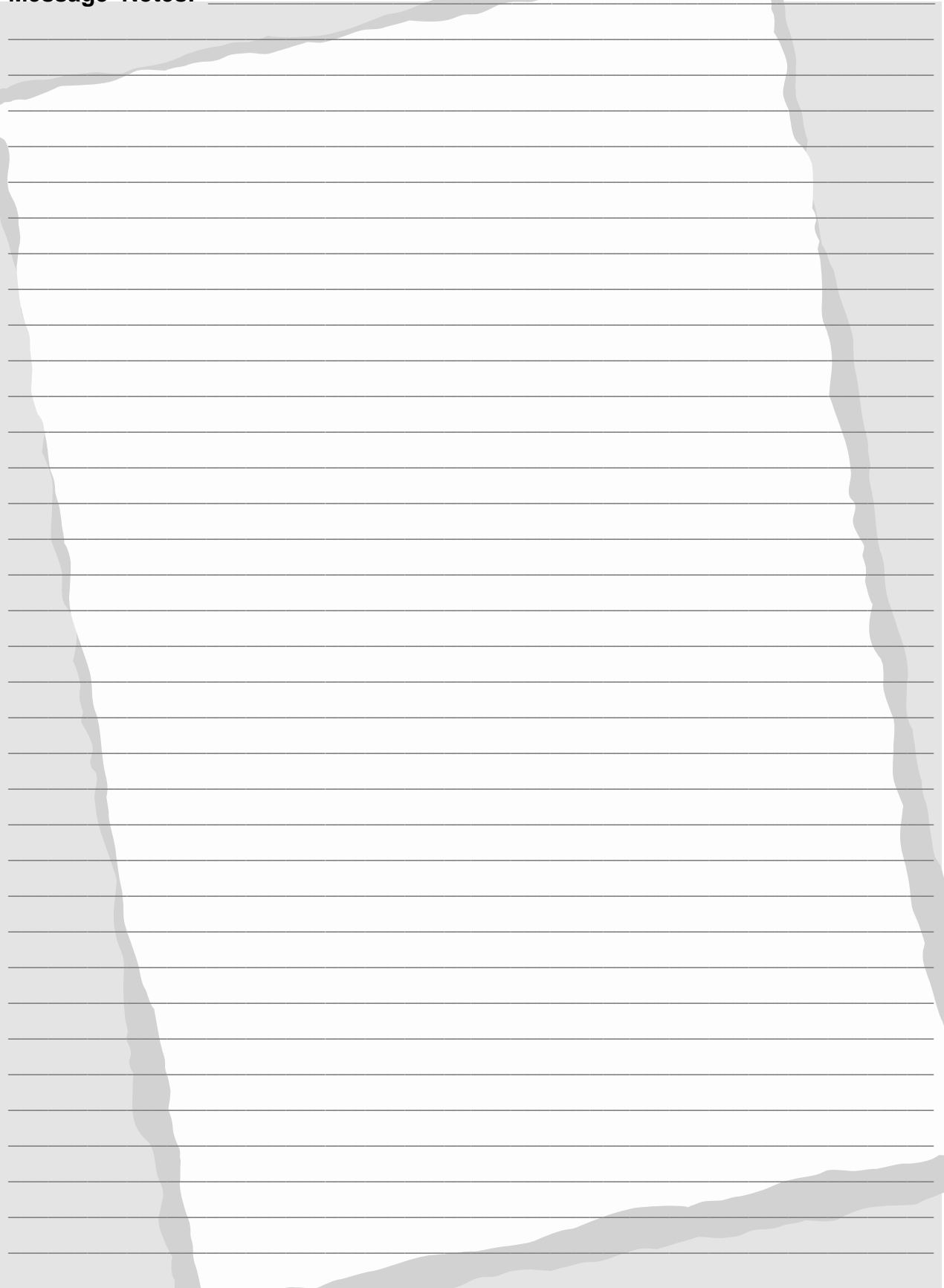


God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

¹ A.W. Tozer, *That Incredible Christian*

Message Notes:

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