



Ephesians

Lesson 43
FINALLY - Part 1

Finally - BE STRONG & Be Dressed for Battle (Ephesians 6:10-11)

- As Paul was finishing his letter (as he was moved by the Holy Spirit) Paul EXHORTS SAINTS with two IMPERATIVES (commands):
 - ① BE STRONG
 - ② PUT ON THE ARMOR of GOD
- Both exhortations signal saints that the Christian life is NOT as easy life. To be a Christian is the world takes:
 - DETERMINATION
 - DISCIPLINE
 - DILIGENCE
- WE are exhorted to be STRONG:
 - ✓ “in the LORD” – NOT SELF!
 - ✓ “in the POWER of HIS MIGHT” (see Ephesians 1:19)
 - ✓ Read Joshua 1:6-9
 - ✓ Exhortation to the saints at Corinth: 1 Corinthians 16:13
- We have a REAL ENEMY - SATAN, the DEVIL, our ADVERSARY.
 - The whole world lies under the influence of our enemy. (1 John 5:19; John 16:11) The whole world means:
 - ☆ Academia - from kindergarten to university.
 - ☆ Media - news and entertainment.
 - ☆ Government - Local and State
 - ☆ Science - consider 1 Timothy 6:20-21
 - ➔ KJV - “science” is γνῶσις gnosis {gno'-sis} translated “science”; “knowledge”.
 - ☆ Entertainment - ALL KINDS

☆ **Religion** - corrupting and perverting the Word of God.

- He is roaming looking for saints to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)
- We need to pray for strength - Eph 3:16; Colossians 1:11; 1 Peter 5:10

ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

- The key verse of Paul’s practical theology (How to live as a Christian in the World) in chapters 4-6 is chapter 5 verse 18.
- “**BE FILLED**” - πληρώω pleroo {play-ro'-o} “to fill to the brim”; “to fill to the top so that **nothing** shall be wanting to full measure”; “to make complete in every particular”
 - ★ Illustration: Glass overflowing with water/Hand in glove
- IT IS A PRESENT TENSE COMMAND IN THE PASSIVE VOICE.
- We must “raise our sails” and be ready to be filled with the Spirit.
 - ① Confession and repentance of sin. (Hebrews 12:1; 1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13; Galatians 5:24)
 - ② Death to SELF. (Luke 9:23)
 - ☆ Being a **slave** to others. (1 John 3:16; Matt 20:25-28)
 - ③ Complete SURRENDER of will, intellect, body, time, talents, possessions, and desires to God. (Luke 14:33)
 - ④ Let the Word of God dwell in you richly. (Eph 5:19-20; Col 3:16; John 8:31)
- To be filled with the Spirit means to be controlled by the Spirit – NOT the DESIRES and/or LUSTS of OUR FLESH! (Galatians 5:16-25)

A Spirit Filled Person Will:

- (5:1) IMITATE GOD.
- (5:2) Walk in love **just as** Christ loved/loves us.
- (5:3-5) Walk **NOT** as the world walks. BE DIFFERENT/HOLY. (1 Pet 1:15-16)
- (5:8-13) Walk as “children of light”. (Matthew 5:14-16)
- (5:9) Have visible fruit of all goodness, righteousness, and truth.
- (5:15) Walk circumspectly in an evil generation.
- (5:16) Use God’s gift of time wisely.
- (5:17) Understand (studying, knowing) and do the will of God. (1 John 2:17; Matthew 7:21; 12:50)
- (5:19) Speak the Word of God to each other.

- (5:20) Give thanks to God for everything. (Philippians 4:6; 1 Thess 5:18)
- (5:21) Submit to one another in the fear of God.
- (5:22-24) As wives, joyfully respect, honor, and submit to their husbands in all things.
- (5:25-29) As husbands, joyfully serve and love their wives just as Christ served/serves the Church.
- (5:30-32) Be active, serving members of a local body of believers – the Church.
 - ★ SUBMITTING TO CHRIST IS EVERYTHING.

THE BATTLEFIELD IS EVERYWHERE

Parents: Your Children Are on the BATTLEFIELD

Children Obey and Honor Your Parents (Eph 6:1-3; Exodus 20:12)

- Children are to OBEY their parents in *all things*. (Colossians 3:20-25)
- Children are to HONOR (“value highly”; “highly respect”) their parents. (Leviticus 19:3; Exodus 20:12;)
- Parents are God’s earthly representatives. Parents are STEWARDS of the children given to them by God. Parents will give an account of their stewardship. (Hebrews 4:13; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10)
- To rebel/disobey parents is the rebel against/disobey God. Children need to be taught this early.
- God considers this commandment very serious. (Exodus 21:15, 17; Deut 21:18-21; Leviticus 20:9)
- Statistics from the USA show that there are more than 8 million abuse cases per year – **children abusing their parents!!!!!!**
- Children are born into the world self-centered sinners and rebels. Children need to be taught and disciplined! (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)
- Children, just like Christ, must grow “in favor of God and men”. (Luke 2:52)
- **WHY? - because it is RIGHT and it “is well pleasing to the Lord.”** (Colossians 3:20; Ephesians 6:1)

Parents Are to Submit to God (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21)

- “Fathers” = parents.
- Remember you are God’s representative – IMITATE GOD!
- Two commands: **DO NOT PROVOKE** and **BRING UP**.
- The cultural norms in the 1st Century:
 - ★ Child’s fate was in the father’s hand.
 - ★ Abortion in the Roman Empire.
 - ★ Political attitude during Paul’s writings.
- TODAY, primary reason for children being in foster homes – abandonment.
- “do not provoke to anger” - so they do not become discouraged.
- “bring up them up in *training* (**discipline**) and *admonition* of the LORD”
 - Parents are to raise their children in accordance with God’s written Word – NOT cultural, traditional, society norms.
 - (Psalm 78:1-8) First and foremost, parents are to teach their children about God and His Laws
 - ➔ So that the children will put their hope in God, not forget the works of God, and keep His commandments, and teach their children.
 - ➔ A generation has grown up not knowing God! (Judges 2:6-15)
 - ➔ Parents are to teach **diligently**. (Deut 6:4-9; 4:9-10; 11:18-22)
 - Consequences for NOT obeying these commands:
 - ☆ (Proverbs 10:15:20; 17:25) The disobedient child will bring grief to his/her parents.
 - ☆ (Proverbs 17:21) The parents will be robbed of joy.
 - ☆ (Proverbs 19:13) The disobedient child will bring ruin to the parents.
 - ☆ (Proverbs 28:24) A disobedient child will use his/her parents for his/her own selfish gains.

Slaves (Employees) Are to Submit to Employers (Ephesians 6:5-8)

- We serve our Lord in all that we do.
- We obey our masters always in everything with an exception to those things that are not pleasing to the God. (1 Peter 2:18-20)
- Christians ought to be better employees and students.

- Christians should not expect different treatment from Christian employers. (1 Timothy 6:1-2)
- Our productivity is a reflection on our Lord. (Titus 2:9-10)
- “fear and trembling” - honor and respect. (v. 5)
- “sincerity/singleness of heart” - true commitment to one’s task. (v. 5)
- “not with eye service as men pleasers **but as slaves of Christ doing the will of GOD from the heart**” - whatever we do we do unto the LORD. (v. 5)
- Spirit-filled employees do not do only the minimum!
 - They “do all in the name of the LORD Jesus”. (Colossians 3:17)
 - They “do all heartily, as unto the LORD”. (Colossians 3:23; Ephesians 6:6)
 - They “do it with their might”. (Ecclesiastes 9:10; Romans 12:11)
 - They do everything for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- We do not work of rewards. Our reward comes from God when we get home. (v. 8; consider Luke 17:7-11)

Masters (Employers) Are to Submit to God (Ephesians 6:9)

- “do the same” – “with good will doing service to the Lord.” (v. 7)
- God is not a respecter of persons. Employers and employees both come under the same authority of the supreme Master.
- Both are accountable to the LORD.
- Employers are to treat their employees equally.

**FINALLY, MY BRETHREN, BE
STRONG in the LORD . . .**

5