

# E P H E S I A N S

## Week Eight: Ephesians 6:5-24: "Serving the Lord, Strength for the Battle"

Study Guide for the week of July 25, 2021

**Study Ephesians 6:5-9.** Some questions to answer and discuss:

1. If you were a slave, what would be the worst part of being someone's property?
2. Why did Paul tell slaves to obey their masters "with respect and fear"? ([6:5](#))
3. How could slaves serve the Lord while working for their masters? ([6:5-8](#))
4. How would slaves benefit from winning the favor of their masters? ([6:6](#))
5. Why did Paul call slaves to obey and not to revolt against the system of slavery?
6. How does God want us to treat all people with whom we work?
7. How can you remember to serve all people wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord?

### Life Application Bible Notes

[6:5](#) Slaves played a significant part in this society. There were several million of them in the Roman Empire at this time. Because many slaves and owners had become Christians, the early church had to deal straightforwardly with the question of master/slave relations. Paul's statement neither condemns nor condones slavery. Instead, it tells masters and slaves how to live together in Christian households. In Paul's day, women, children, and slaves had few rights. In the church, however, they had freedoms that society denied them. Paul tells husbands, parents, and masters to be caring.

[6:6-8](#) Paul's instructions encourage responsibility and integrity on the job. Christian employees should do their jobs as if Jesus Christ were their supervisor. And Christian employers should treat their employees fairly and with respect. Can you be trusted to do your best, even when the boss is not around? Do you work hard and with enthusiasm? Do you treat your employees as people, not machines? Remember that no matter whom you work for, and no matter who works for you, the one you ultimately should want to please is your Father in heaven.

[6:9](#) Although Christians may be at different levels in earthly society, we are all equal before God. He does not play favorites; no one is more important than anyone else. Paul's letter to Philemon stresses the same point: Philemon, the master, and Onesimus, his slave, were brothers in Christ.

**Study Ephesians 6:10-24.** Some questions to answer and discuss:

1. If you were a police officer, what extra precautions would you take to guard against danger?
2. What did Paul tell the believers to put on? ([6:11](#))
3. How should Christians be armed for battle? ([6:14-17](#))
4. What last two pieces of armor did Paul tell all Christians to take up? ([6:18](#))
5. How often are you engaged in spiritual warfare?
6. What pieces of armor are you missing?
7. How can you encourage another Christian in his or her spiritual battles?

### **Life Application Bible Notes**

[6:10-17](#) In the Christian life we battle against rulers and authorities (the powerful evil forces of fallen angels headed by the devil, who is a vicious fighter, see [1 Peter 5:8](#)). To withstand their attacks, we must depend on God's strength and use every piece of his armor. Paul is not only giving this counsel to the church, the body of Christ, but to all individuals within the church. The whole body needs to be armed. As you do battle against the "mighty powers in this dark world," fight in the strength of the church, whose power comes from the Holy Spirit.

[6:12](#) These who are not "flesh-and-blood enemies" are demons over whom the devil has control. They are not mere fantasies—they are very real. We face a powerful army whose goal is to defeat Christ's church. When we believe in Christ, these beings become our enemies, and they try every device to turn us away from him and back to sin. Although we are assured of victory, we must engage in the struggle until Christ returns, because Satan is constantly battling against all who are on the Lord's side. We need supernatural power to defeat Satan, and God has provided this by giving us his Holy Spirit within us and his armor surrounding us. If you feel discouraged, remember Jesus' words to Peter: "Upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it" ([Matthew 16:18](#)).

[6:18](#) How can anyone pray at all times? One way is to make quick, brief prayers your habitual response to every situation you meet throughout the day. Another way is to order your life around God's desires and teachings so that your very life becomes a prayer. You don't have to isolate yourself from other people and from daily work in order to pray constantly. You can make prayer your life and your life a prayer while living in a world that needs God's powerful influence. We also should pray for all believers in Christ; so pray for the Christians you know and for the church around the world.

[6:19, 20](#) Undiscouraged and undefeated, Paul wrote powerful letters of encouragement from prison. Paul did not ask the Ephesians to pray that his chains would be removed but that he would continue to speak fearlessly for Christ in spite of them. God can use us in any circumstance to do his will. Even as we pray for a change in our circumstances, we should also pray that God will accomplish his plan through us right where we are. Knowing God's eternal purpose for us will help us through the difficult times.

[6:21](#) Tychicus is also mentioned in [Acts 20:4](#), [Colossians 4:7](#), [2 Timothy 4:12](#), and [Titus 3:12](#).

[6:24](#) This letter was written to the church at Ephesus, but it was also meant for circulation among other churches. In this letter, Paul highlights the supremacy of Christ, gives information

on both the nature of the church and on how church members should live, and stresses the unity of all believers—male, female, parent, child, master, slave—regardless of sex, nationality, or social rank. The home and the church are difficult places to live the Christian life, because our real self comes through to those who know us well. Close relationships between imperfect people can lead to trouble—or to increased faith and deepened dependence on God. We can build unity in our churches through willing submission to Christ's leadership and humble service to one another.

*Ephesians Study Guide questions and notes are from*

