

EPHESIANS 9

1. Before God, is a man better than a woman?

-No.

2. Before God, is a woman better than a man?

-No.

3. How are wives to submit to their husbands?

-Just like we submit ourselves to the Lord.

4. Should a husband force his wife to submit to him?

-No.

-This is the work of God the Holy Spirit in the heart of the wife.

5. For a wife to submit herself to God and to her husband even though her husband is difficult, what can the wife know?

-That God is pleased is with her, and that her husband must answer to God for his sins against her.

6. Why should wives submit themselves to their husbands?

-Just as God chose Christ to be the head of the church, God chose the husband to be the head of the family.

7. How should a husband love his wife?

-Just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

8. Is it possible for a husband by himself to love his wife

as Christ loves the church?

-No.

9. How is it possible for husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the church?

-By allowing the Holy Spirit to love their wives through them.

10. How can a wife help her husband to love her?

-By submitting to him.

11. What is the result of a husband loving his wife as Christ loves the church?

-His love cleanses her and makes her holy.

12. How can it be that a husband who loves his wife loves himself?

-By loving and caring for his wife, a husband is also loving himself because if his wife does well, then he will do well.

13. Why is it important for a married man and woman not to divorce?

-Because marriage is a picture of Jesus' love for us, and how He will never leave us.

14. Why is it important for children to obey their fathers and mothers?

-If children can learn to submit themselves to their fathers and mothers, this will help them to submit themselves to God.

15. To whom has God given the primary work of teaching their children about God?

-Fathers.

16. Should mothers also help to teach their children?

-Yes.

-In this last chapter of Ephesians, we will study our spiritual warfare as soldiers of the Lord Jesus.

Let's read Ephesians 6:10

10-Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

-Can we stand against Satan and his demons in our own strength?

-No.

-In whose mighty power alone are we strong?

-The Lord Jesus'.

-Were Moses and the Israelites able to save themselves from Pharaoh and the Egyptians?

-No.

-At the Red Sea, Moses said this to the Israelites:

-“The LORD will fight for you; you need only be still” (Ex 14:14).

-Were the Israelites able to give themselves food and water in the desert?

-No.

-It was God alone who saved them from death.

-Were the Israelites able to tear down by themselves the walls of Jericho?

-No.

-It was God alone, Joshua told the Israelites, who gave them the city of Jericho.

-Not only can God alone save us, but after we become Christians, God alone can keep us from our enemies

-Who are our enemies?

-The world, the flesh, and Satan.

-The world, our flesh, and Satan all want us to leave God and be like them, full of sin and evil.

-As we have learned, even after we become Christians, sin and evil are still stronger than we are.

-This is why we must be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

-As Moses told Israel at the Red Sea, God also says this to us: “The LORD will fight for you; you need only be still.”

-But how can we “be strong in the Lord”?

-Most of the rest of Ephesians chapter 6 will tell us:

Let's read Ephesians 6:11

11-Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

-What is armor?

-Armor is metal clothing that soldiers wear to protect themselves in battle.

-Whose armor are we to put on?

-The armor of God.

-Why do God and Paul ask us to put on the armor of God?

-So that we can take our stand against the devil's schemes.

-If we do not know that we have the armor of God, are we able to put it on?

-No.

-What is one of the themes of Ephesians?

-To understand what God has already done for us, and then, to use it.

-As we learned in Ephesians 1:3, God has already given us every spiritual blessing.

-We must only understand or learn what He has already given us so that we can use it.

-Here is an illustration:

-If a young child has legs, but has never learned that God has given him legs to walk, will he ever walk?

-No.

-Why not?

-Because the child has never learned that his legs are for walking.

-Here is another illustration:

-If a man has a car, but has never learned to drive it, will the man be able to go anywhere with the car?

-No.

-Why not?

-Because the man has never learned how to drive the car.

-Christ has already given us the full armor of God.

-We must only learn this, put it on, and then use it.

-As Christians, we do not put on the armor, and then take it off.

-When we believe in Christ, we have already put on the full armor of God.

-How can we be “strong in the Lord?”

-By wearing the full or whole armor of God.

-Would a soldier be wise if he did not use all of his armor?

-No. He would be foolish.

-How much armor do we need against the world, the flesh, and Satan?

-Every piece of God’s armor.

-Why is the Christian’s armor called “the armor of God?”

-Because it comes from God through the Lord Jesus.

-We wear the whole armor of God so that we can take our stand against the devil’s schemes.

-What is meant by the “devil’s schemes”?

-For non-Christians, Satan helps them to think that they have not sinned against God and do not need God.

-For Christians, Satan helps them to think that the world and their flesh are better for them than God.

Let’s read Ephesians 6:12

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.

-In this verse, we learn that Satan has organized his demons in their struggle against God and people.

-The Christian life is a struggle or a battle.

-Is our battle against flesh and blood or people?

-No.

-With whom is our battle?

-With Satan who uses the world and the flesh.

-Jesus' life on earth began with a battle with Satan.

-Jesus' life on earth ended with a battle with Satan.

-Jesus was also tempted by the world and by the flesh.

-It was on the cross, however, that Jesus won the battle against the world, the flesh, and Satan.

-With His death, the Lord Jesus took away the power of sin, death, and Satan for those who believe in Him.

-If Jesus' death took away the power of sin, death, and Satan, then why do we still have problems?

-Because we still live in the world.

-Because we still have our flesh or old habits.

-Because Satan is still active.

-What is the solution to the world, the flesh, and Satan?

-Just as we called on God to save us, we need to

continually call on God for the battle with the world, the flesh, and Satan.

-We call on God to save us from death.

-We call on God to save us from the world, the flesh, and Satan.

-The difference in Christians is the degree to which we call on God.

-Some Christians, after they have been saved, do not call on God very much.

-They seem to say, “Thank you, God, for saving me. See you in heaven,” and go their own way.

-Other Christians, however, after they have been saved, continually call on God so that God can live His life out through them.

-We need God to save us, and we need God to live the Christian life out through us.

-God never intended Christians to live the Christian life.

-God intended Christ to live the Christian life out through us.

-The greatest example, of course, is Christ.

-In John 5:19 & 30, Jesus said that He could do nothing by Himself, meaning that Jesus totally depended on the Father.

-In John 15:5, Jesus tells us that we can do nothing apart from Him.

-Therefore, we have no strength except God's strength.

-Therefore, our strength is God's strength alone.

-Therefore, because the battle is not with flesh and blood, we do not use flesh and blood.

-Because the battle is spiritual, we use the spiritual armor of Christ.

-If we have no battle, then we are either dead, or not walking with Christ.

-Because we are in a battle, we must use the full armor of God.

-Do we use our armor to defeat Satan?

-No.

-Why do we not use our armor to defeat Satan?

-Because Christ already defeated Satan on the cross.

-Then why do we use our armor?

-To stand against the world, the flesh, and Satan trying to hurt us and keep us from doing the work of God.

-Our armor is help us to stand against the world, the flesh, and Satan who hurt us, and try to keep us from

doing the work of God.

Let's read Ephesians 6:13

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.

-For the second time, God and Paul ask us to put on the full armor of God.

-As we have already learned, we are to understand and use that which God has already given us, that is, the full armor of God.

-Our first piece of armor is our belt of truth.

Let's read Ephesians 6:14a

14- Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist.

-For the soldier, what is the purpose of the belt?

-The belt holds all of the soldier's clothing together so that he can fight.

-Who is the Truth?

-The Lord Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6).

-The Word of God is also the truth.

-As we have learned, God and His Word are one.

-What is the world's greatest weapon?

-The lie.

-What is the flesh's greatest weapon?

-The lie.

-What is Satan's greatest weapon?

-The lie.

-This is why life is a battle between truth and lies.

-This is why the belt of truth is so important for the Christian.

-How do we use the belt of truth?

-We have to know the truth before we can use it.

-Can we use the truth if we do not know it?

-No.

-How do we use the belt of truth?

-By studying the Word of God.

-By memorizing the Word of God.

-When the world, the flesh, or Satan tell us lies, the truths of Christ will help us.

-When we are sad or have difficulties, the truths of Christ will help us.

-If our minds and our hearts would be full of the truths of

God, our lives would be a lot different.

-The world, the flesh, and Satan say that there is no truth.

-If we are Christians, however, the belt of truth has already been buckled around our waist.

-We must only understand this and learn to use it.

-Our second piece of armor is our breastplate of righteousness.

Let's read Ephesians 6:14b

14-[Having put on] the breastplate of righteousness in place.

-For the soldier, what is the purpose of the breastplate?

-It protects the heart, the lungs, and the stomach of the soldier.

-Without a breastplate, a soldier is open to losing his insides, that is, his heart, his lungs, and his stomach.

-Who is our righteousness?

-The Lord Jesus.

-This is the theme of the book of Romans, that is, that Christ is our righteousness.

-As Romans 3:22 tells us: "This righteousness from God

comes through faith in Jesus Christ.”

-How do we use the breastplate of righteousness?

-By understanding that God has given us His righteousness, that is, the righteousness of Christ.

-When we sin, we may feel unrighteous before God.

-Yet, we must confess our sin and remember that God has given us the righteousness of Christ.

-When we compare ourselves with others whom we think are better Christians, we may feel unrighteous before God.

-Yet, we must remember that all Christians are sinners, and that God has given us the righteousness of Christ.

-The world, the flesh, and Satan tell us that we have no righteousness.

-If we are Christians, however, the breastplate of righteousness has already been buckled around our chest.

-We must only understand this and learn to use it.

-Our third piece of armor is our shoes of peace.

Let's read Ephesians 6:15

15-And with your feet fitted with the readiness that

comes from the gospel of peace.

-For the soldier, what is the purpose of shoes?

-It protects the feet of the soldier.

-Without shoes, a soldier is not able to move, and will stumble and fall.

-What is the gospel of peace?

-That Christians are at peace with God and one with Him.

-What are the shoes of the gospel of peace?

-That Christians stand firmly in the peace of knowing that because we are one with God, He will fight for us.

-In the Old Testament, God stood one with Israel and fought for Israel.

-It was only when Israel worshiped idols and abandoned God that they no longer stood one with God.

-God did not abandon Israel.

-It was Israel who abandoned God.

-If we believe in Christ, however, our peace is that we are one with God, and that God stands with us.

-When trouble comes, if we do not know that we have the shoes of the peace of God, then we will stumble and fall.

-When we are tempted, if we do not know that we have the shoes of the peace of God, then we will stumble and fall.

-The world, the flesh, and Satan tell us that we have no peace.

-If we are Christians, however, the shoes of peace have already been fitted to our feet.

-We must only understand this and learn to use it.

-Our fourth piece of armor is our shield of faith.

Let's read Ephesians 6:16

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.

-For the soldier, what is the purpose of a shield?

-It protects the soldier from the spears and arrows of the enemy.

-Who is our shield against the attacks of the world, the flesh, and Satan?

-The Lord Jesus.

-When it was possible that Abram would be killed, God said to him: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield" (Gen 15:1).

-According to the verse above, what type of shield do we have?

-A shield of faith.

-How would you define faith in God?

-One definition: To put one's whole weight on God.

-Another definition: A total belief in God.

-How do we use the shield of faith?

-By studying God's Word to increase our faith.

-By crying out to God to increase our faith.

-As a man cried out to Jesus: "Help my unbelief" (Mk 9:24).

-This should be the cry of all people that God would help our unbelief.

-Belief in the world, temptations of the flesh, and the lies of Satan are like fiery arrows that try to kill us.

-This is why our shield of faith in Christ is so important.

-Our fifth piece of armor is our helmet of salvation.

Let's read Ephesians 6:17a

17-Take the helmet of salvation.

-For the soldier, what is the purpose of a helmet?

-It protects the head which is the most important part of the soldier.

-Who is our salvation?

-The Lord Jesus.

-Jesus has saved us from the punishment of sin.

-Jesus has saved us from the power of sin.

-Jesus has saved us from the presence of sin.

-Are God and Paul only talking about Christ saving our lives when we become Christians?

-No.

-How do we know this?

-Because God and Paul are writing this letter to Christians in Ephesus who have already been saved.

-To understand this, we must understand that salvation has three truths inside of it.

-Firstly, if we are Christians, salvation is being saved from sin and death unto eternal life.

-This is called justification which means that Christ has made us righteous before God by his death.

-Secondly, salvation is being saved from sin on a daily basis here on earth.

-This is called sanctification which means that Christ is making us like Him.

-Thirdly, salvation is being saved unto heaven where there is no more sin.

-This is called glorification which means that Christ will be raising us to His glory in heaven

-How do we use the helmet of salvation?

-Firstly, by understanding that, if we are Christians, the Lord Jesus has already saved us from eternal death to eternal life.

-Secondly, by understanding that Christ's salvation is also a daily salvation from the world, the flesh, and the devil.

-Thirdly by understanding that Christ's salvation will bring us to heaven with God and without sin.

-Our sixth and last piece of armor is our sword of the Spirit.

Let's read Ephesians 6:17b

17-Take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

-For the soldier, what is the purpose of a sword?

-It is the weapon which the soldier uses to protect himself as well as attack the enemy.

-All of the pieces of armor we have studied are to protect the soldier.

-Yet the sword is also used to attack the enemy.

-What does Ephesians 6:17 call the Christian's sword?

-The sword of the Spirit.

-What is the sword of the Spirit?

-The Word of God.

-How much of the Bible is the Word of God?

-2 Timothy 3:16 teaches us this:

-“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

-Is Satan more powerful than the Word of God?

-No.

-Is there anything more powerful than the Word of God?

-No.

-Hebrews 4:12 teaches us this:

-“The word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any

double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

-When Satan tempted Christ in the desert, how did the Lord Jesus protect Himself and attack Satan?

-He used the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

-Each time Satan tempted Christ, the Lord Jesus responded by saying, “It is written . . .,” and spoke the Word of God to Satan.

-When John the Baptist spoke the Word of God, people believed and were saved from sin and death.

-When Peter and the other apostles spoke the Word of God, people believed and were saved from sin and death.

-When any Christian speaks the Word of God, we should know that the Word of God is alive and powerful.

-This is because God and the Word of God are one and the same.

-It is the sword of the Spirit which not only protects us, but is also used to attack the enemy.

-To attack the world, we must use the sword of the Spirit.

-To attack the flesh, we must use the sword of the Spirit.

-To attack Satan, we must use the sword of the Spirit.

-This is why we must memorize the Word of God.

Let's read Ephesians 6:18

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 Lord's people.

-When can we pray?

-We can pray with others or pray by ourselves.

-We can pray with words or pray silently.

-We can pray with our eyes open or our eyes closed.

-We can pray standing, sitting, kneeling, or lying down.

-We can pray at home, at work, or wherever we are.

-We should pray at all times because God wants to be our constant friend.

-What does it mean to pray in the Spirit?

-To pray in the Spirit means to pray alongside of God and with God.

-To pray in the Spirit means to pray according to the will of God.

-If we allow God to pray through us, He will guide us to pray according to His will.

-Even when we don't know how to pray, God in us does.

Let's read Ephesians 6:19-20

19-Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, 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.

-Did Paul think that he was better than other Christians and did not need their prayers because he was an apostle?

-No.

-We should share our problems with one another and ask to pray for one another.

-We should also pray that we will not be afraid to teach others the Word of God.

Let's read Ephesians 6:21-22

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.

-Who was Tychicus?

-Paul met Tychicus on his third missionary journey and

Tychicus probably carried this letter to the church at Ephesus.

-Now, we will read the last words in this letter.

Let's read Ephesians 6:23-24

23-Peace to the brothers and sisters, 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.

-Finally, what did Paul pray for the believers?

-That God would fill them with peace, love, and faith.

-How can we be filled with peace, love, and faith?

-Only through the Holy Spirit who lives in us as we allow Him to control every part of our lives.