

DAILY STUDY

Lesson 47: Be Strong in the Lord

Passage: Read Ephesians 5 - 6

Verse: Ephesians 6:10-12

DAY 1  **LET'S BEGIN:**

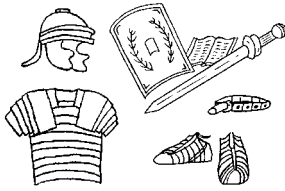
1. Read Ephesians 5-6 several times this week. What parts of Ephesians 5-6 would you like to memorize?
2. To what does the word "therefore" relate to in Ephesians 5:1?
3. Whom should we imitate, and what does this mean? (Eph. 5:1-2) List qualities of God we should include.
4. What should not be true among believers? (Eph. 5:3-5)
5. Why does the wrath of God come on the sons of disobedience? (5:6)
6. How should we walk? (5:8)
7. What is the fruit of the light? (5:9-10)
8. What should we do with the unfruitful deeds of darkness? (5:11-12)
9. What does light do according to Ephesians 5:13-14?
10. How should we walk according to Ephesians 5:15-16?
11. What should we understand according to Ephesians 5:17, and what does this mean to you?
12. With what should we be filled? (5:18)

DAY 2  **FIND the FACTS:**

1. How can you carry out Ephesians 5:19-20?
2. How can you carry out Ephesians 5:21?
3. What does Ephesians 5:22-24 say to wives? Give an example.
4. What does Ephesians 5:25-30 say to husbands? Give an example.
5. What does Ephesians 5:31 say about becoming one? Give an example.
6. What does Ephesians 5:32-33 say about Christ and the church? Give an example.
7. What does Ephesians 6:1-3 say about children? Give an example.
8. What does Ephesians 6:4 say about fathers? Give an example.
9. What does Ephesians 6:5-8 say about servants? Give an example.
10. What does Ephesians 6:9 say about masters? Give an example.

PASSAGE SUMMARY

Lesson 47: Be Strong in the Lord



Therefore imitate God as beloved children. Walk in love as Christ has loved you. He has given Himself for us as an offering and a sweet-smelling aroma.

It is not fitting for immorality, impurity or greed to be named among the saints. Give thanks. Immoral, impure, covetous and idolatrous people have no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Do not be deceived by empty words. The wrath of God comes on the sons of disobedience because of these things. Do not do these things.

You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of **light**. The fruit of the light is in goodness, righteousness and truth. Find out what pleases the Lord.

Instead of joining with unfruitful deeds of darkness, expose them. It is disgraceful even to talk about these things that are done in secret. Light exposes these things. Therefore wake up. Christ will give you light.

Be wise people, not fools. Make the most of your time because the days are evil. Understand what the will of the Lord is. Be filled with the Spirit, not drunk with wine. Speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual **songs**. Sing and make **melody** in your heart to the Lord. Always give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another in the fear of God.

Wives, submit to your own husbands as if to the Lord. The husband is the head of the wife. This is like Christ being the head of the church. He is the Saviour of the body. Wives should be subject to their own husbands like the church is subject to Christ.

Husbands, love your wives the way Christ loves the church and gave Himself for her. Christ gave Himself for the church to sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word. He wants to present her holy and blameless as a glorious church without spot or wrinkle.

A husband should love his wife like he loves his own body. A man who loves his **wife** loves himself. No one hates his own flesh. Everyone nourishes and takes care of it the same way the Lord cares for the church. We are part of this body. Because of this a man should leave his

father and mother and cleave to his wife. The two shall be one flesh. This great mystery is about Christ and the church. A wife should be careful to respect her **husband**.

Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord because this is right. Honouring your father and mother is the first commandment with promise. The promise says "that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth."

Fathers, do not provoke your **children** to anger. Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Slaves, obey your masters in the flesh with fear and trembling. Have sincere hearts for Christ. Do not do eyeservice to please men. Be slaves of Christ. Do the will of God from the heart. Serve with good will to the Lord, not to men. Good things you do will be rewarded by the Lord whether you are a slave or a free man.

Masters, treat your slaves the same way Christ treats you. Stop threatening them. Think about your own **Master** in heaven where there is no partiality.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armour of God to be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood. It is against rulers, powers, world forces of this darkness and spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places.

We must take up the full armour of God to resist and stand in the evil day, having done everything. Stand firm with your loins girded with truth, wearing the breastplate of righteousness and the preparation of the gospel of peace on your feet.

Take up the shield of faith to put out the flaming missiles of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Always pray with petitions in the Spirit. Persevere and petition for all the saints.

Paul asked them to pray that he would have the words to say and would open his mouth boldly to make the mystery of the gospel known. Paul was in chains because he was an ambassador of the gospel. He wanted to be bold as he should be.

Faithful Tychicus would comfort their hearts by telling them more about Paul. Paul sent greetings to all the brothers with peace and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS: Why should we walk in love? What does walking in love look like?

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Ephesians 5 begins with a "therefore" referring to the kindness, tender-heartedness and forgiveness of God who gave His only Son for us (end of Eph. 4). We should imitate these characteristics, especially the walking in love. This can only be done supernaturally with a new nature and the continuous power of the Holy Spirit flowing through us by obedience to God's Word, His love letter to us. Our ability to forgive shows the presence of love as does our ability to show how much we know we have been forgiven.

The pattern for living is Christ Himself and the way He sacrificially gave Himself for us while we were still sinners. Just before Jesus' death on the cross the disciples were debating about who was the greatest. Amidst that atmosphere Jesus began washing their feet as a servant would do (Jn. 13:12-17, 34-35).

Prior to Christ's death on the cross the offerings for sin and trespass (Lev. 4:1-26, 32-35; 5:1-19) were repulsive to God (2 Cor. 5:21). They represented God's turning His back on His Son. When Christ died and rose again, His great act of love became a fragrant aroma available to everyone who places himself under the grace of that sacrifice. Christians should be known for continual thankfulness.

A pattern of self-centered, lustful living and greed should not characterize any believer's life. Those who are characterized by immorality, impurity and covetousness (idolatry), habitually living in impurity, cannot be part of God's kingdom. They will experience the wrath of God. Sons of disobedience carry out patterns learned from their father, Satan, which is their nature.

A believer's former position was in darkness while his new position is in the light in the Lord as he should walk. This means living in goodness, righteousness and truth toward God and those around him with nothing to hide from the light. Paul warns believers not to participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness. When sin is revealed, it is seen for the ugliness it is. Paul calls those in spiritual darkness to repentance.

The natural man may accumulate vast knowledge apart from God, but spiritual understanding and divine wisdom elude him because he hates the truth of sin and salvation. True wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord (Pr. 1:7). It is not characterized by philosophy and endless spinning and discussion of theories with no bearing on God or practical living. Hypotheses and speculations do not demand recognition, acceptance and change the way truth does.

There is not a different set of values for the new believer versus the mature believer. Even new believers are urged to walk wisely. To be sad about sin and to hunger for righteousness is where we begin (Mt. 5:4, 6). It is a growth process. We grow practically in what we possess positionally beginning with salvation. To be careful means to look, examine and investigate with great care and alertness (Ps. 1, Pr. 2).

The Ephesian believers should redeem the time because of the evil days. Sadly, the Ephesian church did not heed his warning. Revelation 2:2, 4 says she left her first love even though God could praise her good works, perseverance and resistance to false teaching. This church disappeared during the second century and has not reappeared. We must heed the warnings with a sense of urgent obedience.

It is God's will for us that we be saved (1 Tm. 4:3), sanctified (1 Th. 4:3), submissive (1 Pt 2:13-14), suffering (1 Pt. 2:20) and thankful (1 Th. 5:18). To try to function apart from God's will is indeed foolish.

Paul contrasts drunkenness with the command to be filled with the Spirit, a continual process. To resist being filled and controlled by the Spirit is disobedience. If a believer's basic orientation is carnal, he needs to examine his heart to determine his true father. This filling includes the connotations of being carried along by the wind (as a sail on a ship), being permeated and under total control.

Being filled with the Spirit involves confession of sin, surrender of will and being, and the death of selfishness. Then the Spirit can produce the fruit of the Spirit in us. This is fulfilling the potential and capacity of life on earth as God's children. The Spirit-filled life produces music from the heart. When the Bible reentered the church during the Reformation, singing came with it. There are a variety of musical means for glorifying the Lord, including vocal and instrumental expressions. Music that honors God also blesses his people. Scripture records the benefit Saul received from David's music in 1 Samuel 16. A truly thankful heart will utter gratefulness genuinely, continually and in humility. This brings us to seek the welfare of others before our own in a spirit of submission.

Paul describes some of what the Spirit-filled life looks like among family members and in relation to the church. God's standards do not change. He will forgive, cleanse and restore repentant believers; however, He does not promise to remove the tragic consequences of disobedience.

Since the garden of Eden when God decreed the positions of man and woman after the fall, woman has had a sinful inclination to usurp man's authority. And man has had a sinful inclination to put woman under his feet. It takes grace in Christ and the filling of the Holy Spirit to restore the created order and harmony which existed before the fall.

This order and harmony cannot be achieved by changing or distorting the authority of God's inerrant Scripture. Allowing contemporary humanistic philosophy to have the "ultimate" authority leads to all sorts of confusion, disorder and dismay as each person pursues his own will (Jud. 21:25).

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PRAYER: *Father, help us learn what You want us to learn from the letter to the Ephesians.*
