

Spiritual Warfare/Ephesians

The topic this month is Spiritual Warfare as researched in the letter to the Ephesians. First, we will study Acts 19 so that the background of what was going on in Ephesus will set the book in the context, and all of this is for the purpose of helping us “do the stuff”; i.e., carry the Kingdom battle right to the gates of our enemies! It is time to go on the offensive, for there is where the power of the Holy Spirit is displayed!

First of all, the letter to the Ephesians was probably written originally as a circular letter to the churches of Asia Minor, which are well represented by the seven churches Jesus addressed in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. Historically, Paul’s letter became the letter to the Ephesians, and this makes good sense as the spiritual influence of Ephesus extended over the entire region; so it was very appropriate for the letter to sort of begin and end with this city.

Spiritually and economically, Ephesus dominated the entire region of Asia Minor. The spirits that “ruled” Ephesus also “ruled” over all the surrounding areas. Artemis (or Diana) was the primary, territorial spirit that held the people in subjection; but there were a great many other lesser “gods” which competed for the fear of man. Her temple was four times the size of the Parthenon at Athens, and “she” had also become the major banking center since “she” owned vast holdings of land that eventually brought “her” into the lending business.

Ephesus had a population of 330,000 and was a major seaport. It enjoyed both the favor of Rome and the ancient beauty of having a 70-ft. wide road lined with columns that ran through the city and down to the harbor. You can well imagine why Paul made this city his headquarters for reaching all of Asia Minor! And so as you read Acts 19, you should not be surprised at the power of God that was released in the midst of fierce opposition which was triggered by the demons, as Artemis lost “her” control of the multitudes as they were being set free by Jesus!

More than likely, every convert would have been delivered from demons either at the initial conversion or shortly thereafter. Why? Because magic and demon worship of every description was the order of the day. People were seeking relief from sicknesses, accidents, economic setbacks, and bad luck, in addition to their fears about the underworld and death; and so they spent a lot of money on amulets, magic names that were supposed to protect them, and astrology, as well as little figures of Artemis to bring into their homes. And, of course, many worshiped the Emperor as well as other “gods” at the same time, just “to be safe.” This process of worshipping many “gods” is called syncretism; and believe it or not, we have some of the very same thing going on among us Americans today with the rise of The New Age religions, as well as all sorts of philosophies that operate as semi-religions. Believing in pieces of different religions so as to “build” your own religion, which may constantly shift as one’s “needs” or interests change, is very “in” at the

moment.

Paul's letter to the Christians living in this city speaks directly to the Christians living in our city, because many of the same problems are going on today. It is our privilege and calling to rise up and do the spiritual warfare so that our City will be changed as men and women flock to Jesus! Read the background in Acts 19 and the book of Ephesians with these things in mind, and see if it doesn't all come alive to you in a new way! May God lead us into powerful victories in the year of 2002!

Lesson 1

Scripture Study: Read Acts 19 with the object of getting a good view of the situation in this major port city. Be sure to freely use your marking pen to make notes or comments in the margin, as this will help you to actually interact with the Scripture. *(15 minutes)*

What evidences of Kingdom power do you see operating through Paul?

Why do you think the Jewish exorcists were trying to use the name of the Lord Jesus?

Study verses 18-20. This was probably what we now call a “people movement.” Can you see that scene is part of being delivered from demons?

Do you notice anything else in these three verses that might help you understand the Ephesian Church?

Prayer Time: *(15-30 minutes)*

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4) Take this command and actually rejoice in the Lord! Sing or shout or declare, but rejoice in who Jesus is as your Deliverer!

Now call upon the Lord. Declare His power and victory in your life situations that are concerning you.

Use your faith to ask God to give you a ministry of witnessing about Jesus this year! It is in sharing the gospel that you will be thrust into more faith and the works of the Holy Spirit, so really mark it down as a serious, year-long request!

Now close by worshiping Him over the new year!

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 2

Scripture Study: Reread Acts 19, and once again read it in order to grasp the whole picture. Stand back from the text and look at it in sections so that your mind can follow the flow of action from Paul's initial entry to his departure. *(15 minutes)*

Look at verses 9 and 10, and you will see the apostolic ministry at work. What do you think the apostolic ministry should look like in your Church?

- b. Look at verse 15. Have you ever really thought about the fact that this evil spirit actually was well informed about Paul? Do you think the demons around here know about you?

Look at verse 20. What factors do you see that lie behind Luke's observation that the Word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing?

What might all this mean for us today so that the Word of God will be growing mightily and prevailing in our area?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Praise God for the power of His Word and for His victory over every demon power and every work of Satan!

Take your stand in and with Jesus Christ as being one with Him; begin to pray with the authority He gave you to agree with Him in all the areas that affect your extending the Kingdom in the zone God assigned to you and to your local Church!

Now, use your faith to join God in laughing with Him over His defeating death and hell by the resurrection of His Son! Boast about the Lord out loud!

Now draw close to the Lord and quietly wait upon Him. Just spend a few minutes being still and being attentive to what He might want to say or do. If nothing dramatic takes place, don't worry about it. You are just honoring Him by waiting upon Him.

Look expectantly to the Lord for His ministry of sharing the Lord with those you see.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 3

Scripture Study: Reread Acts 19 for the third and final time in this series. The chances are that you are now beginning to notice more about Paul and the scene in Ephesus than ever before. You are becoming observant, and this is exciting. *(15 minutes)*

Look at verse 21. Examine how the Holy Spirit led Paul. There just seemed to be a growing sense of inner rightness about going to Jerusalem and then to Rome.

We usually think in terms of God's leading as guaranteeing our success, don't we? So, how many years did Paul spend in prison in fulfilling this inner conviction?

Read Deut. 8:2-3, and notice how the Lord "Led them in the wilderness these 40 years" with the purpose of humbling and testing and bringing them into fresh revelation!

As you examine what happened with Demetrius, I want you to realize that when you really begin to displace a territorial spirit you will see economic implications, and this can bring distress upon Christians. It truly is a war!

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Ponder a minute that while Jesus is the Prince of Peace, He always comes with a sword because He has come to destroy the works of the devil!

Praise Him for being the "General of the Battlefield" who assures you of victory but calls you to join Him in the fight!

Use 1 Timothy 6:12 in prayer: "Fight the good fight of faith to which you were called; and take hold of eternal life."

Agree with God about His Kingdom coming into all the areas of conflict in and around your life.

Use God's Promises to pray through things that need to happen in your life!

Pray over the people that you might be witnessing to, for God wants to use you. Prayer and witnessing are the basis of all ministry.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 4

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 1, and be prepared to use your marking pen to sort through this very concentrated portion of Scripture. This is like spiritual fudge as it is so rich, heavy, and deep! You will need to work to chew your way into the sweetness of this passage! *(15 minutes)*

Memorize Ephesians 1:3 because this is the central thought in the letter and the basis upon which Paul will call all Christians to join with the Savior in His battle against Satan!

Use your pen to see if you can locate and number the specific blessings that Paul mentions in verses 4-14. I count at least eight blessings right here, but it depends upon how you break it up. How many did you count? Number them and note them in your margin.

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Read Ephesians 1:3 before the Lord as a form of prayer. Now: looking away from your Bible, say this verse to the Lord.

Begin to praise Him for His blessings and mention all the specific ones you can remember from the preceding verses.

Take one or more of His blessings into your areas of battle and believe Him for His Promises to be applied to your life situations!

Pray for God the Spirit to pour out a fresh anointing upon your Church so that you can all participate together in receiving His blessings and in spreading His blessings to others who are still in bondage.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 5

Scripture Study: Reread Ephesians 1. (*15 minutes*)

Break this chapter into two sections. Mark section one as: 3-14 and section two as: 15-23.

There are 28 words in this letter that relate to power; unfortunately, some of them are a little obscured by our English translation. How many “power” words can you locate in chapter one? Indicate them in your Bible so that you will begin to really notice these words, because they are vital to your confidence in fighting this war.

Can you see why Paul breaks out into such an anointed and spontaneous prayer in verse 17? Why do you think he did this?

Continue memorizing verse 1:3.

Prayer Time: (*15-30 minutes*)

Pray Paul’s prayer over your Church.

Now pray it over yourself!

Take your Bible in hand and take some of the “power” words you have marked right into prayer! It pleases God and destroys the works of the devil as you pray God’s Promises and assurances into the trouble spots surrounding your life. These spots are some of the places God has given you to war for Him!

Fight in prayer for the souls of some of the people God has put into or around your life! You are now acting as a priest toward them: a high calling.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 6

Scripture Study: Really examine Ephesians 1:15–23 so that you can delve into Paul’s prayer which is being extended to you and to your Church! You can use your pen to help you break the prayer down into segments so that you can better grasp what God wants to impart to your life! *(15 minutes)*

Why do you think Paul puts such a priority upon you and your Church having fresh revelation of Jesus Christ? You might want to look back at Matthew 16:17-18 where you can see that it is the continuing revelation of Jesus that is the “rock” upon which the true Church operates. In fact, where this continuing fresh revelation is lacking, the Church ceases to be the Church.

Just looking at this prayer, what is it that Paul considers to be the “hope of His calling”? If you can “see” what Paul is talking about, then the whole passage opens up to you!

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Identify with “His calling,” for this is His will for your life. Agree with God in prayer by owning His calling.

Use your faith to “own” His power over all the demon spirits that scheme against your life, so that you will honor the Lord.

Use Declaration Prayer by proclaiming the greatness of Jesus Christ (out loud) over every work of the enemy in all the areas of your life: relationships, finances, health, your job, opportunities to witness, etc.

Finish with worship of Him Who called you and loves you!

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 7

Scripture Study: Study Ephesians 1:1-14 again because as you do, you will be surprised at how much more the Holy Spirit will show you.

E.g.: If you should happen to actually note Paul's little qualifier, "by the will of God," you will be looking right at the secret to his amazing confidence and boldness. So what might this mean to you for your own life?

Adam's sin brought _____ upon you, the world, and us. But here in 1:3f, Jesus brought to you all the _____, which will counteract what you/we inherited from Adam.

How does all of God's help and blessing actually come into your life? By God placing you "in Christ." He has taken you into Himself and made you one with Him. Underline all the places in the text where you find "in Christ," "in Him," "in the Beloved," etc. You may wish to use a yellow highlighter, and then you will see something in the text that you may have missed before.

What exactly has God given you "in Christ" (using this passage)?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

You probably know something about what God has called you to do, and this is "the will of God" for your life. In prayer, "own" the will of God in your life and let God put the confidence in you that He knows you need in order to accomplish it!

Rejoice in the blessings that God has given to you "in Christ"! Thank Him for them out loud if possible.

Worship God as the Sovereign God who alone makes His decisions and answers to no one, because He alone is God Almighty!

Ask God to use your Church to take His blessings to the world!

Pray to the Lord, Who is harvesting, and ask Him to send you and your fellow Christians to share the faith with those around you.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 8

Scripture Study: Before you restudy Paul's prayer, read 1 Corinthians 2:9-10a, and you will understand why Paul declares the blessings you have "in Christ" and then begins to pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal it to you. Then read Ephesians 1:15-23 slowly and with understanding.

(15 minutes)

Do you think that most Christians really know and experience "the hope of His calling"?

In verse 19, when Paul speaks of "the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe," what role do you think your willingness to use your faith plays in this?

Paul specifies Jesus' defeated enemies as: "all rule," "authority," "power," and "dominion." These refer to spirits, or demons of varying degrees of rank and authority. What practical implications can you see for this in your life?

Prayer Time: *(15-30 minutes)*

Worship Jesus Christ as the One Who defeated Satan on your behalf and gave you His authority over demons.

Thank Him for writing your name in the book of Life!

Use the power of Declaration to honor Him in all the areas of your life where you are struggling!

Pray God's authority over those you know who are being troubled by demons!

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 9

Scripture Meditation: Ephesians 1:22–23. Read slowly, saying the words out loud to yourself. Just absorb the words. Let His words come deep inside you. This is how you give His words “room” inside your soul. *(5 minutes)*

Scripture Study: Ephesians 2:1–10. *(15 minutes)*

Look where Paul begins with you in verse 2:1 and where he ends up with you in 2:10. Describe your “Before Christ” existence as compared to your “After Christ” existence.

Examine your prior relationship to Satan in 2:2–3. How does Paul describe your former condition?

Looking at verse 2:4f, what did the mercy and love of God do for you?

Examine 2:8-9 and explain where these verses say “your faith” initially came from and why?

In verse 2:10, can you see God’s Sovereign plan and destiny for you life? What do you make of this?

Prayer Time: *(10–20 minutes)*

Praise God for preparing specific good works for you to walk in long before He created you!

Freshly commit yourself to Christ as your personal Shepherd, for He is committed to leading you through life for maximum impact!

Thank Him for giving you the gift of saving faith!

Thank Him for your being His product, His workmanship!

Now declare the Lord’s faithfulness and goodness over every part of your life that is being challenged.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 10

Scripture Meditation: Ephesians 2:8–10. Meditate by very slowly mouthing these words, rather like you were chewing them and swallowing them and then chewing them once again. This is how you meditate. It is a learned art. *(5 minutes)*

Read Ephesians 2:1–10, underlining and highlighting in ways that help you “see,” or remember, or interact with the text. *(10 minutes)*

Look at 2:4–5. It’s a good thing that God gave you saving faith because you should note here that you were spiritually dead. You were dead in your ability to respond to God with trust or obedience because you were “by nature a child of wrath” and under the authority of “the prince of the power of the air” and of “the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

From 2: 4–5, how did you happen to become “alive together with Christ?”

In 2:6, what does it mean that you are “seated with Him in the heavenly places?”

Look at 2:7. Why will the way God has chosen to work with you “show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward (you) us?”

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Worship God by either singing or praising Him for His incredible goodness to choose you and to give you the faith to respond to His love!

Thank Him for every gift that He has given you.

Now bring to Him your requests one by one, but really deposit them into His hands, as He is faithful.

Commit yourself to Him and His plan for your day.

Ask Him for the boldness to help others to come to His love.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 11

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 2:11–22. Read it again in order to look for the overall picture of what Paul is saying. *(20 minutes)*

Why do you think Paul deals with the Gentile-Jewish “problem” before describing the Church as God’s holy temple?

Remember, Ephesus is the home of the world famous wonder of the world, the great temple of Artemis; it is the territorial spirit behind all that is intimidating and troubling the Christians, as this controlling spirit has been in place ruling over people for a long time. So, why do you think that Paul describes the Church as “a holy temple, a dwelling of God in/by the Spirit?”

Examine 2:20, and you will note that it is God’s plan to build every local Church by establishing and maintaining the foundation through the ministry of the apostle and prophet as they work together. How might you personally benefit from the joint ministries of the apostle/prophet? Read the next verse to get a hint.

What happens to Churches and their ability to resist Satan and accomplish the works of God when the two-fold ministries of the apostle and prophet are ignored? Read 2:20–22 to form your answer.

What happens to God’s plan to rule over Satan through the Church when individual Christians will not allow themselves to be “fitted together” with other Believers in the Church?

Spiritual Warfare is a serious business, and it requires that every Christian be joined to a local Church in a serious way; and the failure of this will mean a giant loss for everybody except the devil!

FYI, the reference in 1 Corinthians 3:11 to Christ being the only foundation is referring to the foundation in the life of an individual Believer; but in Ephesians 2:20, the foundation is referring to a local Church which is required to enable all the Christians to actually live and work together in harmony. This cannot be fully accomplished without the active participation of the apostle and prophet; of course, the other ministries will build on top of their work, as all are vital.

Prayer Time: *(10–20 minutes)*

Ask the Lord to freshly fill you with the Holy Spirit this morning! Now believe Him as you ask.

Ask the Lord to show you if you are withholding yourself from being “fitted together” with your brothers and sisters.

If you have any unforgiveness in your heart toward anyone in your Church, renounce it this morning and cast it from you!

If you have a suspicious attitude toward those in spiritual authority over your life, ask God to forgive you, and renounce this attitude that will block the ministry of God to your life.

Praise God for making you a part of His temple.

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill your local Church so that you all together can be a “dwelling of God in the Spirit.”

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 12

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 3:1–13. (20 minutes)

Paul begins with, “For this reason...” What is this reason? Obviously you will look back to see what is the reason.

Look at 3:2, and explain why I say that this verse describes every one of us in our various ministries.

In Ephesians 3:4, Paul was given the ability to understand “the mystery of Christ” by _____. So, how important do you think the Holy Spirit’s role is in showing you how grace really operates in your life?

Paul mentions “the administration” or “the stewardship” a number of times in this letter.

Look at 1:10; 3:2; and 3:9. These two English words translate into one Greek word; and the two English concepts are found in this one word. We have the responsibility to “steward” what God has given us; and we are now “administrating” things in accord with the way God runs things and will eventually “run” everything when Christ returns. We are simply “running things” now in full agreement with His “Headship” or Lordship.

Ephesians 3:10 is a key verse in this letter!

Why does God want to reveal His “manifold wisdom” to the demons?

Why does the text say, “now?”

What is the role of the Church in this?

Why might Satan fight the Church on this?

Prayer Time: (10–20 minutes)

Thank God for “the mystery of Christ” which is how His grace has made you a part of His eternal purpose!

Ask God the Spirit for revelation about God’s grace in your life.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you ways in which you are not working by His grace so that you can experience His help in fresh, deep, new ways.

Pray for your local Church to serve the purpose of demonstrating the many different aspects of God’s wisdom now!

Ask God to spread the gospel to all your friends!

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 13

Scripture Study: Here we come to another powerful prayer by Paul that lifts you up and changes you just to read it much less to study and pray it! Read Ephesians 3:14–21. Please notice that his prayer is very theological, which is important, because so many Christians today consider theology to be irrelevant, impractical, and in some cases even unspiritual, which is nonsense! *(15 minutes)*

Before I say anything, look at Paul's prayer, and answer these questions: What is it that Paul wants to happen in Christians? What is the purpose or object of his prayer?

- (1.)
- (2.)
- (3.)
- (4.)
- (5.)
- (6.)

Reread 3:20–21. Why does Paul end with this triumphant shout that relates directly to His purpose in His Church?

Look back to 1:22–23 and 2:20–22 as well as 3:10 and list His purposes in His Body, the Church.

Prayer Time: *(15–25 minutes)*

Take 3:16–17 and pray it over your own inner man.

Now pray the same prayer over your Church leaders.

Read out loud Ephesians 3:20-21 before the Lord, and then proceed right into praise and worship of Him Who is so Lovely and so Powerful!

Ask God to reveal the mystery of Christ (His grace) to those in your local Church!

Ask God to use your local Church to bring Him glory!

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 14

Scripture Meditation: Read Ephesians 3:20–21. Read slowly, saying the words to yourself. If you get “stuck” on a phrase or a word, just keep saying it over and over, for this is how one meditates. You dwell upon the words. You ponder, reflect, receive the words, and they nourish you; for Jesus said, “My words are Spirit and Life.” (5 minutes)

Scripture Study: Ephesians 4:1–6. (15 minutes)

Do you remember the “His calling” from 1:18? Here Paul urges them to live in a way that is worthy of such a special calling. He describes some of what is involved in living this way in the two verses following. In 4:2–3 what does Paul mean when he says to live worthy of the calling?

- (1.)
- (2.)
- (3.)
- (4.)
- (5.)

Ephesians 4:1 begins with a “therefore”; when you see this conjunction, you should always ask, “What is it there for?” It obviously means that Paul is drawing a conclusion when he makes the following remarks, but why does living worthily of the calling follow from the previous thoughts? That’s the question.

If you and others do not constantly work to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace in your local Church, what happens to the grand plans of God mentioned in 1:22–23, 2:20–22, 3:10, and 3:21?

Spiritual warfare always involves the constant battle against our flesh and demonic plans, which capitalize upon any sins we Christians commit and leave unrepented of, because Satan realizes (maybe better than we do) how critical our unity is to the release of divine power to destroy his works!

Prayer Time: (15–25 minutes)

Bow before the Lord. Humble yourself, and submit your soul to Him.

Ask the Holy Spirit to bring you into humility, gentleness, patience, tolerance, and a determined zeal for unity.

Now ask for these same things for your brothers and sisters in your local Church.

Ask the Holy Spirit to pour out His anointing upon your Church so that Christ is constantly glorified.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 15

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 4:7–16. *(15 minutes)*

Looking at 4:7, how does God correlate your grace with your gift?

Ephesians 4:8–10. Apparently Jesus descended at the time of His death into the regions of Hades or Hell in order to announce His victory over the underworld and its demons, which are listed in Ephesians as “rulers, powers, world forces of this darkness, and the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly place.” (I am aware that many scholars do not believe that Jesus descended into this region, but the unusual qualifier, “the lower parts of the earth,” distinguishes this area from just being on the earth.) In Psalm 68:18 God is depicted as leading a band of prisoners up to His holy mountain as a sign of His triumph. Here the Psalm is made Christological in that Christ is leading these powers of the demon structure away into a triumphal display of victory, much as conquering generals of that day marched their captives into the public square and distributed the spoils of war!

In Ephesus, the territorial spirit behind Artemis was intimidating the Christians, many of whom were not far removed from the dread of the underworld and all the things that demons can do to those who are not “in Christ.” Paul is declaring to them the extent of Christ’s victory by saying in effect: “Hey, you have reason to fear; He took His victory right into the underworld, led some of their top henchmen away as captives, and then gave out His anointings upon five different types of ministries so that the Christians could be fully prepared to move effectively in their individual anointings and thus together defeat every plan of Satan.”

What is the job description of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher?

What is the role of doctrine in enabling every Christian to succeed in his/her calling?

Why is the Christian who withholds him/herself from truly being united and fitted into a local Church frustrating the plan of God both for his/her life as well as the for the Church?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Submit yourself to the Holy Spirit this morning for His anointing and equipping.

Use your faith to ask the Lord to use His other ministries to further enable you to succeed in glorifying the Lord and destroying the works of the devil.

Now use your faith to receive the ministry Christ is giving you, because the root issue of every ministry is the element of faith.

By faith, “draw” faith and ability from Jesus, because this is how you abide in Him and draw His life into you and into your needs.

Believe His Promises for the areas in which the devil is pressuring you.

Finish by a time of honoring Him with worship.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 16

Scripture Review: Reread the verses which define Christ's plan for the Church: Ephesians 1:22–23, 2:20–22, and 3:10 especially. Now read the remaining one in Ephesians 3:19–21. The controlling idea is found in 3:10 where we see right into the heart of God's plan for His Church. The rest of Ephesians spells out the various areas of “the manifold (multifaceted) wisdom of God.” (5 minutes)

The wisdom of God begins with your living in a way that is worthy of His Calling upon your life!

The wisdom of God prioritizes your always working for the unity of your local Church as well as the larger Church.

The wisdom of God means rightly relating to the apostles, prophets, evangelists, etc., which He has placed in the Church.

Scripture Study: Ephesians 4:17–32. (10 minutes)

List the various things Paul talks about because they are also aspects of the wisdom of God.

Prayer Time: (15–30 minutes)

Bow before the Lord this morning and surrender any anger you may have hidden away in your heart. (Things that “set you off” usually reveal hidden anger)

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and to convict you when you are not truly dealing His way with your anger.

Continue to renounce unforgiveness and unbelief, as these two sins will make it very difficult to receive from God.

Now begin declaring the goodness and greatness of God, out loud if possible.

Now sing to Him of your love for Him. Minister to Him.

Put your day into His hands.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 17

Scripture Meditation: Read Ephesians 3:10. Feed your mind the words of this verse. Let your eyes drink; absorb the very words of God. *(5 minutes)*

Scripture Review: Read Ephesians 4:1–32 using your pen and highlighter to mark things which you are now beginning to see in a fresh way. *(10 minutes)*

Journal (write down) some of the things you are seeing or that the Lord is speaking to you as you read these verses.

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Try singing your love to the Lord in words that you just make up as you go along. Raise your hands to Him and just adore Him.

Bring to Him the pressures you are experiencing in your life.

Now declare His personal faithfulness and goodness over each of these problems.

Pray for the leaders of your Church who are charged to equip your life.

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill your local Church Body.

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Lesson 18

Scripture Study: The Wisdom of God continues: Read Ephesians 5:1–21. *(15 minutes)*

Here is an interesting thing: Paul wants you to feel loved by God, and he wants you to walk in this type of love. But can you see how he contrasts love with the sins that he now mentions? In other words, love does not allow these types of actions.

List some of the things that are not love, but in fact, they are sin.

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

The more you experience God's forgiveness, the more you will feel His love and the more you will love Him. So, if you see any need to ask forgiveness for any of these places where something other than love has taken up residence in your life, then please bow before the Lord in repentance.

If you have 1 John 1:9 as a memory verse, this is a good time to quote it before the Lord so that you truly receive His cleansing and blessing.

Express your love back to the Lord either by singing to Him or simply by just telling Him how much you love Him for all that He is!

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the love of Christ within your own Church.

Ask for the lost to experience the love of Christ.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 19

Scripture Study: Reread Ephesians 5:15–21. *(15 minutes)*

Explain why 5:15–17 is so critical for the Church to demonstrate to the demon spirits that oppose God and plot to hold people in bondage.

When it comes to the wisdom of God and ruling over Satan, why do you think it is so important that you continually live in 5:18–21?

How can you make the most of your time in regard to being wise according to God?

What practical things can you think of that would help you to get frequently refilled with the Holy Spirit?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and believe that He is doing it. Spend a few moments before Him in this.

Renounce all foolishness and by faith count Jesus Christ as your Wisdom from God just as it says in 1 Corinthians 1:30.

Read Ephesians 5:18–20 before the Lord and then begin to sing to Him about your love for Him. He is gracious to receive any tune and any voice raised to Him!

Ask Him to give a special love for all the ones in your Church, even those who are a challenge to like.

Pray over the lost people you know who need to know Christ.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 20

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 5:22–33. You may wish to highlight the wives' part and the husband's part. *(15 minutes)*

What does the wisdom of God that defeats Satan look like for wives?

How does God's wisdom differ from the foolish norms of society today for wives?

What does the wisdom of God that defeats Satan look like for husbands?

How does God's wisdom differ from the foolish things men do today in our culture?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

If you recognize any foolishness in your life in regard to these issues, then please bring your sins to Him who loves to forgive, cleanse, and restore.

Raise your voice in honoring the Lord of All Wisdom! Declare His greatness!

Declare His Wisdom in defeating all the works of the devil!

By faith receive the Lord Jesus' life and wisdom and grace into every needy area of your life.

Pray for God to use your Church to destroy the works of the devil.

Believe God for His anointing to increase in every gathering, large or small!

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 21

Scripture Review: Look over the first five chapters of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Look for the big picture. Look at the sections and the headings in your Bible so as to grasp the overall flow. Try skim reading now in order to review and get the main ideas of Paul deep into your mind. *(15 minutes)*

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you this morning.

Ask the Holy Spirit to move you into using the spiritual gifts this very day!

Use your faith to believe for the Holy Spirit to anoint the eyes of the lost to be opened to Christ!

Perhaps there will be a need for demon deliverances in your Church this week. Picture the Holy Spirit going into people during times of worship, or communion, or their hearing of the Word of God this week, or in some prayer time.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 22

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 6:1–9. *(15 minutes)*

Why is God's order and God's idea of spiritual authority so important if you are to win your battles against the devil?

Why is it so important for children (even as adults) to honor their father and mother?

Why is it so important for fathers to not misuse their authority?

Can you transpose 6:5–9 from a slave/master situation to an employee/employer situation since we no longer have slaves in this nation? If so, what does God want you to recognize as His wisdom for your life today?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

If you have dishonored your parents, ask God to forgive you; and then ask your parents to forgive you also a little later.

If you, as a parent, have wrongly used your position, then ask God for His forgiveness and then ask your child's forgiveness.

Pray for your parents and your children. If you do not have children, then pray for the children of your Church.

Pray for the parents of your Church that they would love their children enough to truly make disciples of them.

Thank God for being your personal Father.

Ask the Holy Spirit for an anointing to make the Father's honor known.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 23

Comments: Paul is writing this letter in order to help Christians realize what power and authority God has given them over demons and over the controlling, territorial spirits which fight an organized and serious fight against God and against those created in God's image. Throughout this letter Paul tells you about what a vital and glorious position God has planned for His Church. Christ functions as the true Head of the Church, and so it is His plan to release great power and authority through His people (His calling) in order to use us in destroying the works of the devil. No individual Christian can accomplish this. It is an Army, and it takes belonging to a Company within the Army, for it is the combined use of trained men and women who know how to work together in unity and together use their weapons that forces the devil to release those who have been in his power.

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 6:10–20. *(15 minutes)*

Since you have been studying about God using the Church to demonstrate His wisdom to the evil spirits, perhaps you can feel the force of Paul's "Finally" in 6:10.

List all of the "power" words and military words you see in this passage:

- (1.)
- (2.)
- (3.)
- (4.)
- (5.)
- (6.)
- (7.)

The phrase in 6:10, "be strong," is translated, "be ye empowered" in the Greek, which makes it clear that Paul is talking about collective power. (Notice the "ye" which does not show up in modern English.)

The phrase in 6:11, "so that you will be able to stand," is much clearer in the Greek as "so that you will have power to stand."

Paul focuses now on The Fight: the daily fight you and I and we together have against Satan and his various demons, big and small. Behind the visible problems, which you face, are invisible enemies, which are evil spirits. It isn't a matter of becoming "demon conscious," for they are already very "you" conscious. It is time to awaken and to realize that God has given you spiritual power to use against the enemy, provided you move in the wisdom of God.

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Take 6:10 seriously and use your faith to receive power and strength from Jesus Christ. You are "in Christ," so draw from Him the life and power you need.

Ask the Spirit of God to fill you with the life of Christ.

Worship the Lord.

Use your authority to pray God's will into situations that are affecting your life.

By faith, use your authority to cut off and destroy Satan's schemes to keep people you know in bondage.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 24

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 6:13–20. *(15 minutes)*

Notice the “Therefore” because Paul has now brought you to the point of the entire letter.

So this “therefore” is not only the conclusion of the immediate verses preceding; it is a huge “Therefore” to the entire treatise.

Also notice two characteristics you might miss: (1) this passage has the imperative mood all over it (so they aren’t suggestions but marching orders) and (2) this passage is addressed to the plural you which is not available in today’s English, but in previous days was “ye.” I suggest that you write “ye” or “y’all” in your margins so that you will not miss the togetherness, which is required for success in the fights of life!

Paul is simply drawing off every man’s experience in seeing Roman soldiers almost every day of their lives when he begins to tell how to, as a Church Body, collectively take up the things God says and use them the way soldiers do when they go to war!

What piece of armor does Paul place as # 1?

Why do you think Paul places such a repeated emphasis upon “standing firm”?

Can you remember battles that either you personally or your Church lost by not standing firm?

The Righteousness Paul speaks of as your armor is, of course, your Faith-Righteousness. The feet shod means nothing to most people because it is not very clear how this works. Imagine fighting in Vietnam bare footed! Ouch! Even the dirt poor bad guys cut up old tires and made sandals out of them; and they were very effective in protecting them from the ever present Punji snakes which would take you in a minute! Trying to fight the devil without the peace of God ruling your hearts and minds is like going into serious war without any protection on your feet. Not good!

Do you generally live with the peace of God operating in your soul or not?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

If you are frequently living in unbelief, then you will often not live in your faith-righteousness, and you will frequently live without God’s peace in your soul. If this is you, bring your unbelief to God in prayer and obtain His forgiveness and continued help.

“Fight the good fight of faith” by declaring the goodness and power of God which He has given to you to become an Overcomer!

Believe His word over all the trials and difficulties that engage your life.

Pray for fresh revelation to sweep over your brothers and sisters in your Church, because their part in the battle directly affects your welfare just like in any Army.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 25

Scripture Study: Reread Ephesians 6:13–20. *(15 minutes)*

What happens if you have the devil working one of his schemes against you, and there is disunity in your marriage, or between you and another brother or sister?

What happens to you if you are going to bed with anger still not dealt with or unforgiveness lodged in your soul?

What do you think Paul means by “resist “ the devil?

Paul is telling you/us how to do Spiritual Warfare and to so fight that we overcome the devil!

Verse 18 in the Greek is much more insightful, for it says, “Through or by the means of all (sorts or kinds of) prayer.”

If you wish to win, if you wish to turn the tables on the plans of Satan to damage your life, you will have to make a big deal of _____.

How can you improve your effectiveness in resisting the devil and in your standing firm against him?

How might you help your fellow soldiers in becoming more effective in their Spiritual Warfare?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 before the Lord, and then use your faith to take Christ’s righteousness into yourself.

After Faith, Worship is the most powerful weapon in Spiritual Warfare, so Worship the Lord like you mean business!

Read Philippians 4:6–7, and then bring your requests to the Lord, interspersed with giving God thanks, and then determine to live today in the peace of God! Oh Satan hates this, for it smashes all his lies that bring fear.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 26

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 6:10–20 slowly, just allowing it to freshly sink into your soul.

Notice that Paul always begins the approach to every stress point by coming directly to God through and in Jesus in order to receive His empowering! You are always to be in touch with your weakness as a means of helping you to come draw upon the Lord Jesus Christ for His great supply. This is grace in action. *(15 minutes)*

Notice in 6:16 how Paul pictures you needing to continually use your faith the way a Roman soldier used his shield to catch the deadly arrows! Would you say that you are deliberately using your faith as a shield against the fears and ungodly urges that surge against your soul?

As you examine 6:17, you will realize that the prayer times in this devotional are constantly having you use “the Word of God” just as a soldier uses his sword. What might help you become more effective in using the Word of God every day as you face “stuff?”

Notice Paul’s imperative (orders) that you (y’all) should “be on the alert” in 6:18. How often do you think you find yourself in a battle, and you suddenly become aware that you were not alert, not conscious of the fact that there really are schemes being run against both you and your Church?

See how Paul reaches out to his brothers and sisters to pray with him so that he can effectively share the gospel. How might you improve your prayer connections with your brothers and sisters so that both you and they will become more effective in spreading the gospel, which is the power of God for deliverance?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Read 1 John 1:7 before the Lord and see if you are in the light as evidenced by the fact that you are able to have fellowship with your brothers and sisters. If you discern a difficulty, then bring any unforgiveness or breach to the Lord and gain His release from your own sin, if there is any.

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you now.

Ask the Holy Spirit to come upon you during the day so that you will prayerfully face the difficult things that happen to you.

Aggressively use the Word of God to attack Satan’s plans and schemes that he has launched against your life, and the Church of which you are a vital part.

Finish by giving thanks to God for all His patience and love toward you.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 27

Scripture Review: All Christians are in Spiritual Warfare whether or not they think they are, or whether or not they wish to be, because the devil is fighting to steal, kill, and destroy all that he can. As the “god of this world,” he works with the curse and the flesh of humans so that his demons can find ways of persuading humans to not trust God. The Church is God’s choice for how He intends to defeat Satan and set people free. So, let’s review the Scriptures which reveal God’s high Calling upon His people, the Church. *(15 minutes)*
Ephesians 1:22–23. What is the role of the Church in relation to Christ’s victory over “all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is being named?”

Ephesians 2:20–22. Why would Satan hate your being “fitted together and growing into a holy temple in the Lord?”

Ephesians 3:10. Why must the Christians practice the practical ways of living that are God’s wisdom in order to be effective in ruling over the devil?

Ephesians 3:21. Why does Satan so hate the purpose of the Church?

Ephesians 6:11. This is the Church in _____.

Prayer Time: *(10-30 minutes)*

Conscious of your own weakness and need, bow before the Lord and ask the Holy Spirit to freshly fill you.

Now get still. Wait upon Him. “Be still and know that I Am God.” Just wait.

Did you sense any particular thing? Go with praise, or petition, or whatever you sensed from your time of waiting upon Him who is always waiting upon you.

“Serve the Lord with gladness!” Try rejoicing before the Lord even if you are in a hard spot: in fact, especially if you are in a hard spot.

Pray and believe with God for your Church to become powerfully effective in pushing back the darkness.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 28

Scripture Study: Read Ephesians 1:3. *(15 minutes)*

Why would you say that God has blessed you with all blessings in the heavenly realm?

Check 1:6, 2:7, 3:11,21.

As you look over Paul's letter to the Christians in Ephesus, what are the blessings that particularly speak to you?

The blessings and the fights are all in the "heavenly places," which means the spiritual dimension. God is Spirit, and the devil is a spirit being. Therefore, you must be continually re-filled with the Holy Spirit if you are going to receive the great gifts of God, or win the battles that Satan hopes you will try to cope with by ignoring the weapons of God in prayer. Fool him.

What do you sense the Holy Spirit is saying to you right now?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Thank the Lord for His calling upon your life.

Yield yourself to His claims upon your mind, body, time, money, rights, etc.

In faith ask Jesus Christ as the Head of your Church to fit you in so that He will receive the most honor and glory.

Pray for the leaders of your Church so that you might all grow together in ways that defeat the works of the devil in your city and region.

Ask the Holy Spirit to use you in His spiritual gifts.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 29

Scripture Study: Read Luke 10:1–24. (15 minutes)

Look at Luke 10:1 and imagine yourself in this first group of disciples.

Do you understand that now you are in this group of disciples in one way or another?

What do you think God is calling you to do in order to work with His Body to defeat the devil?

Reread Luke 10:19. Rewrite this Promise from the Lord in your own words as applied to your life situation.

Can you see Paul's letter to the Christians in Ephesus as an extension of Luke 10?

Prayer Time: (15–30 minutes)

Read Luke 10:21 before the Lord and rejoice with the Lord in His victory over the devil and in your share in His victory over the devil!

Honor the Lord by lifting up your hands and singing or shouting or in some way demonstrating your desire to shout His praise from the housetops!

Declare His rule over your home and family.

Bring His Promises into your battle points and use His Word as your sword.

Use your spiritual authority to cut off Satan's schemes against you and your Church.

Fight for the freedom of those in bondage.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 31

Scripture Study: Reread Acts 19 in the light of just having freshly studied your way through Ephesians, and you will see the spiritual battles going on in a new light. *(15 minutes)*

Look at Acts 19:9. Can you recognize the “speaking evil of the Way” as Spiritual Warfare launched by the devil, as he tries to hold onto his Kingdom that is slipping through his fingers?

Look at Acts 19:9–10. Can you recognize how the apostle takes trouble and uses strategy to aggressively respond in faith by initiating a bold new outreach so as to affect the entire region? Can you support bold new plans from the apostles and prophets in your Church?

Look at Acts 19:11–12. Do you see a boldness here that might help you step out in more faith? If so, how could you move into a more aggressive faith use of God’s spiritual gifts?

Take another look at Acts 19:13. Can you now recognize Satan attempting a counter attack? But can you also see how God sovereignly causes it to backfire on the devil?

Look at Acts 19:17. If you want to see God bring people into awe, then His Church must answer His calling and step up to the plate in aggressive Spiritual Warfare!

Do you believe that people can get damaged in a spiritual war? Do you believe that people can be damaged by not doing spiritual warfare? So, what should the Christians you know do?

How can you help your brothers and sisters in these spiritual battles?

What things do you not want to do in order to win spiritual fights?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Do some Warfare praise and worship by declaring the majesty and glory of God into the spiritual realm (the heavenlies).

Get quiet and wait upon the Lord, for this is a powerful weapon.

Pray out of the quiet, because the Spirit is leading you right now to pray His way.

Believe that you will be led by the Spirit throughout your day.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.

Lesson 31

Scripture Study: Do a very slow reading of Ephesians 4:11–16. Let it be almost a meditation so that the words are just sort of sinking in at a deeper level. *(15 minutes)*
Which of the five ministries mentioned here are regularly working to equip you in your Church?

Jesus said that if you receive a prophet in the name of a prophet you will receive a prophet's reward. Are you receiving all of these ministries in the right way so that you may receive the rewards? If not, what should you do about it?

Part of your growing up and not being blown around by life's battles is your paying real attention to doctrine. Do you value doctrine as critical to your growth?

If I say that most Christians today know very little doctrine, and they are paying a heavy price for not really hungering to be taught, what would you say to this?

Look at 4:15. Can you recognize your own part in speaking the truth in real love as necessary for everyone to grow? Most Christians either don't speak or they don't speak in love. How can you help take responsibility for the spiritual welfare of your brothers and sisters in this matter?

Prayer Time: *(15–30 minutes)*

Begin by praising God for His Wisdom in putting His children together in such a way that we share in growing one another up and in defeating the devil.

Intercede for your brothers and sisters so that they may win their spiritual battles.

Treat your problems as your battleground where God wants to lead you to fight for His glory and honor. So now pray over them this way.

Thank Him for all the victories He has already given you.

Release all your stress to Him because He is your Shepherd, and the stress is supposed to go on Him.

Thank Him for giving you your Church to be a vital part of His working plan.

I purpose to meet with God in the a.m. at _____.