

# **“Mighty Power”**

## **Immeasurably More #6 • Ephesians 6**

### **INTRODUCTION**

As he closes out the final chapter of his letter to the Ephesians, Paul concludes with a strong exhortation to prepare for battle. For many these verses that depict the armor of God are the most familiar of this epistle. Paul tells us to be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power and then details our weapons in the struggle against the forces of evil. Let's take time in this study to recognize the battle to which we are called and the immeasurable mighty power available to us through Christ.

### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

If you could take only one weapon to battle, what would it be?

### **Study Questions (45 MIN)**

#### **Q1. Read Ephesians 6:10-12; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Romans 8:38-39**

If you are entering a battle, one of the first things you need to do is recognize the enemy. How does Eph 6:11-12 describe the enemy? How are those forces demonstrated in our daily lives? Those who do evil in this world are empowered by the real enemy. Why are they blind to the truth of God and the light of His gospel (2 Cor 4:4)? We must take the battle beyond the visible enemies to the source that empowers them. How does Romans 8:38-39 assure us of the supremacy of the power of God to keep those He loves from falling?

#### **Q2. Read Ephesians 6:13-17; Ephesians 4:22-24; Acts 10:36**

Paul does not say “if” but “when” the day of evil comes, we need the full armor of God to stand (Eph 6:13). To resist evil, what six pieces of equipment are needed? How does knowing God's truth help you to stand against the devil? What did Paul instruct the Ephesians to do in order to live in true righteousness (Eph 4:22-26)? What is that good news we bring to the world that defeats the enemy (Acts 10:36)? Your shield of faith and helmet of salvation protect you from attack. What kinds of “flaming arrows” have been aimed at you? What is the offensive weapon you are to wield?

#### **Q3. Read Ephesians 6:18-20; Philippians 4:6; Romans 8:26-27**

Our prayers need to be so much more than presenting a list of requests to God. Paul goes to great lengths to encompass the diversity and extent of prayers in this final plea to the church. What are the ways Paul encourages us to extend our prayers (Eph 6:18)? When you don't know the words to pray, how does the Spirit bring your needs before God? (Romans 8:26-27) We do not need to be

anxious or fearful when we have great needs because we have a mighty and powerful God who hears our prayers. How does Phil 4:6 tell us to approach prayer? Do you have a time and place set aside for regular prayer? Describe what you would consider your ideal prayer experience.

#### **Q4. Read Ephesians 6:19-20; Acts 1:14**

This weekend New Life called for a night of all-church prayer and worship, focused particularly on the selection of a new pastor. Paul also requested the church to pray for him. What was Paul's specific prayer request? From it's beginning, the Christian church devoted themselves to prayer. (Acts 1:14) Why do you feel corporate prayer is important to the church, and how do you view it's impact on you personally?

### **Wrap-Up**

This study reminds us that we are engaged in a battle. Not a physical battle but a spiritual one. Not against a flesh and blood enemy, but a battle against principalities and powers over darkness, a battle taking place in heavenly realms. We can be assured that God's mighty power is able to keep us throughout this battle. He has given us the armor needed to be victorious. When we use the full armor of God, we take truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation to the fight. The Word of God, our sword, is given to us to demolish the strongholds of the enemy. And as we fight this battle, on all occasions, with all kinds of prayers we are to pray for all of God's people. This powerful force of the prayers of the saints is at work in our own church as we pray and seek God together in the selection of a new pastor to lead His people.

### **Memory Verse**

*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. Ephesians 6:11 ESV*

### **Prayer (20 MIN)**

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more notes)* \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** *Continue this week to pray and seek God in the selection of our new pastor, and for all the Lord's people, and attend the church prayer meetings.*

### Q1

Read Ephesians 6:10-12 in your Bible.

2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV - 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Romans 8:38-39 ESV - 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Q2

Ephesians 6:13-17 NIV - 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. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 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. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV - 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Acts 10:36 NIV - 36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

### Q3

Ephesians 6:18 NIV - 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.

Romans 8:26-27 NIV - 26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Philippians 4:6 NIV - 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

### Q4

Ephesians 6:19-20 NIV - 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.

Acts 1:14 ESV - 14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

### Prayer Notes cont.

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