

THE  
**BLUEPRINT**

GOD'S PLAN, OUR PURPOSE

6 WEEK  
**STUDY GUIDE**

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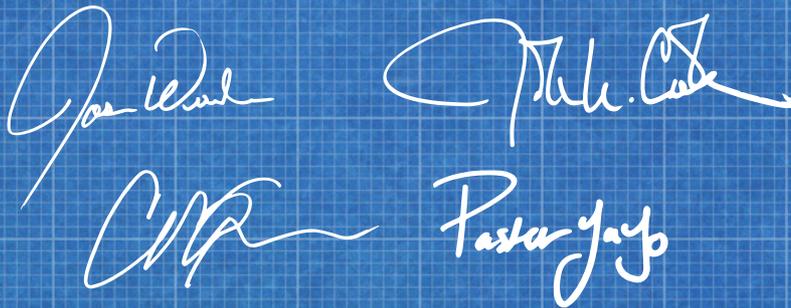
## NOTE FROM THE PASTORS

As pastors, we are excited to be teaching through the book of Ephesians. We're encouraged you're joining us in this study to grow in faith and knowledge of Christ through this powerful and practical book. Our hope is this daily devotional will help guide you, as we teach through each chapter of Ephesians.

The apostle Paul wrote this epistle to the church around 60-61 AD while imprisoned in Rome. The letter to the Ephesians deals with faith topics at the core of what Christianity is all about. The chapters are broken down into two sections: the first three chapters are straight forward theological beliefs about Christ, followed by the final three chapters of very practical ways to live out our faith.

As pastors we have read and re-read through this book many times and each chapter challenges and reminds us how to grow our faith, character and conduct. No matter where you are in your faith journey, the book of Ephesians is going to challenge you. As you read through this devotional, take time to really let Paul's words speak to you. Pray God will reveal Himself to you while asking how to apply these truths. We encourage you to use this study with your family, friends, or life group. We look forward to seeing how God is going to use this study to grow your faith.

Blessings.



The image shows four handwritten signatures in white ink on a blue grid background. The signatures are arranged in two rows. The top row contains two signatures: the one on the left is 'Joe De...' and the one on the right is 'Mike Cole'. The bottom row contains two signatures: the one on the left is 'Cory' and the one on the right is 'Pastor Jay'.

## GETTING STARTED

If you are reading this, you have a big goal: to know God and be transformed by Him. This is rewarding endeavor, but it can also be intimidating. “Am I doing this right?” “Is God mad if I miss a day?” “Why do my prayers seem awkward?” “How do I know if this is working?”

When doubts and stresses arise, remind yourself of this truth: God sent His son here to die so that we could know Him; thus we can be certain He will show up. Jesus’ life and death are clear evidence He passionately desires a relationship with you.

Each day has different sections designed to help us connect.

**FIRST SECTION:** Here’s the Scripture we’re examining. Scripture is God’s primary method of communicating with us, so we begin with His Word.

**SECOND SECTION:** We’ll expound on the main point of the Scripture we read, and hopefully “hear” what the Holy Spirit is communicating.

**THIRD SECTION:** Let’s pray and connect with our Father. The prompts are meant as starting points for that conversation. Use them or ignore them as you see fit, the important thing is to connect. That can mean praying for specific things or sitting in silence just listening for His voice.

**FOURTH SECTION:** We’ll examine our lives in light of what we heard in the Scripture and feel led to after the prayer. Answer these prompts in one sitting or meditate on them throughout the day. The heart of this section is reflecting on how we can be transformed by that Scripture.

There are no magic words in these pages; nothing needs to be done a certain way to “work.” Move through each section at your own pace and in your own way. The goal is connection, not completion. If you miss a day, just pick it up the next day. Your Heavenly Father loves you and wants to be known by you. Don’t get discouraged if you find it difficult or awkward at first. Anything worth doing takes practice, and as you build consistency you will find a rhythm.

Let’s pray before we dig in...

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us Your Word, Your Spirit, and each other. Let us seek You with a sincere heart. Please give us ears that hear Your voice, and hearts that respond when we do. Let us know You, and not simply know about You. Transform us to reflect Your values so others are drawn to You through our lives. Thank You, Jesus.

Amen.

# BLUEPRINT WEEK 1

PASTOR  
JASON WINDSOR

**Ephesians 1: 3-6—Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.**

Our natural inclination is to look at what we DON'T have. I DON'T have enough time or enough money. My relationships DON'T fulfill me. I DON'T like my job. I DON'T like school. I DON'T have a purpose. If we aren't careful, our entire lives revolve around what we DON'T have. What a miserable way to go through life! Instead, let's focus on what we DO have.

Paul says we have been given "every spiritual blessing in Christ." Truthfully, we have been given much more than we lack. One of those blessings is, we DO have someone who wants us. He wants us so badly, He literally laid down His life so we could know Him. He wants us so badly, He adopted us into His family, which means we HAVE a father and brothers and sisters. We also HAVE "His glorious grace," which means that no matter what we do or how terrible things get, we can always turn to a God who loves us.

And those are just a few of the blessings that we HAVE in Christ. We are very blessed people; we just forget it from time to time. Fortunately, we have a patient and loving Savior who reminds us, in Him we have more than we will ever need.

With this in mind, let's focus on what we DO have instead of what we DON'T.

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Thank God for the blessings He has given you.
- Ask God to guide your focus from what we do not have to the blessings He has given you.
- Pray for someone that God brings into your mind.

**Reflection Questions**

- When my mind starts to wonder what I lack, how can I bring my focus back to what God has given me?
- Do I have anyone in my life with whom I can discuss my faith? How often do I seek him/her out and share my thoughts, questions, and concerns?
- What has God given me that I haven't thanked Him for lately?

Memorize Ephesians 1:13b—When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

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## BLUEPRINT WK 1 // DAY 2

**Ephesians 1:8b-10—With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.**

For thousands of years the Jewish people wondered when their savior would come. Having been promised a deliverer at their very inception, they longed for a Messiah to come, put the world to rights, and free them from their oppressors. The search for the Messiah is a mystery at the very core of what it means to be Jewish.

But this mystery has been revealed in Jesus Christ as God has “made known to us the mystery of His will.” His will is that our sins would be forgiven through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; but not only that: Jesus is going to “bring unity to all things in Heaven and on earth.”

Our sin spoiled God’s perfect creation by destroying unity. Think about it. Lying destroys unity; gossip destroys unity; stealing destroys unity: everything that is against God’s will destroys our unity with God and with one another. The real enemy is the division caused by sin, and the cure is Jesus Christ. When times “reach their fulfillment,” Jesus will restore God’s perfect creation by restoring unity. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus Christ is Lord, and while we cannot experience perfect unity prior to Jesus’ return, we can go out of our way now to mirror the unity He is bringing...and yes...preserving unity will require us to go out of our way. It will require us to forgive, to compromise, and to endure. It will require us to seek wisdom from the Holy Spirit as to how to handle situations with grace, compassion, and conviction. Unity requires a lot from us, but it is a defining characteristic of Heaven; and as such, is worth the cost.

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Ask God to remind us that people are not our enemy: sin is.
- Ask God for wisdom to know when to give grace and let go.
- Thank God for giving us Jesus.

### Reflection Questions

- Why is unity a defining characteristic of following Jesus?
- How often do I go out of my way to preserve unity? Can someone go too far to preserve unity?





**Ephesians 1:17-19—I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.**

Paul regularly prays the church in Ephesus receive wisdom and revelation from God. Why is this atop his list of priorities? “So that you may know Him better.” Not so they can make good decisions, not so they can know right and wrong, not so they can wisely teach others; not so they can sin a little bit less; but so they can see Him as He truly is and discard their misconceptions about the God who loves.

In truth, we all have misconceptions about God, and these misconceptions deeply affect our faith. We may feel that God is distant or uncaring, forgetting that He literally sent His son so that we could know Him and says several times in Scripture that He will never leave us nor forsake us. We are afraid of circumstance or trials, forgetting “greater is He that is in [us] than he that is in the world.” We have a very small, pitiful concept of who God is, often dumbing down His power, love, and wisdom to make Him more understandable or relatable.

We forget this is a being who literally speaks things into existence, a being who knows everything which can be known (past, present, and future), a being that has no rival or equal. No one can give God advice. No one can save Him. He is the only uncreated being in the universe. There is no One like our God. This is why knowledge of God has to come from revelation and not comparison. He is beyond comparison.

So Paul prays, “the eyes of your heart may be enlightened” as to who God is and what He has called us to. When we have the proper concept of God, we can take faith steps which would normally frighten us. We can be brave when we would normally cower. When we have a right knowledge of God, we see a God worthy of worship, and we hold firm when we would normally walk away. So many people walk away from the faith because they worship a god of their own imagination, which pales in comparison to the Alpha and the Omega. When we see the greatest good that has ever existed, we respond with worship and awe, and this is what Paul wants for the church. A faith anchored in the greatness of God and “His incomparably great power.”

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Ask God that He would “open the eyes of your heart” so you can know Him as He truly is
- Ask God to surface any misconceptions you have about Him
- Thank God for His great love and mercy

#### Reflection Questions

- Where do you “learn about” who God is?
- How do our misconceptions of God keep us from having a close relationship with Him?
- Should striving to know who God is be superior to knowing commands or doing good deeds? Why or why not?

Memorize Ephesians 1:13b—When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

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# BLUEPRINT WEEK 2

PASTOR  
JOHN COOK

**Ephesians 2:1-3—As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.**

For some of us it isn't difficult to think back and remember from what God has brought us back from. At the time we thought we were just having fun. We weren't hurting anyone. We were just following what everyone else was doing. No big deal, until it became a big deal.

David, in Psalm 51 speaks the words many of us feel all too well, "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me" (51:3, NIV). We don't need someone reminding us of the areas in our life we have messed up, we are perfectly equipped to beat ourselves up. We know the mistakes. We know the extent of how low we can, or have, gone. We know—oh too well—the relationships we torpedoed and people we have hurt. For some of us, we not only have allowed others, but we ourselves, have allowed the past to define not only who we are now, but who we will forever be. We carried or continue to carry the shame and embarrassment that surrounds the collectiveness of our failures. We remember what it is to walk in "disobedience."

Yet, as ugly as some of that was, each of us finds forgiveness, wholeness, and identity in HIM! Paul reminds us with the words he wrote to us almost 2000 years ago (and we read last week): "In [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the richest of God's grace that he lavished on us." (Eph. 1:7-8a, NIV). What we were is just that, what we were. What we are; well, that is now something totally different! Praise God!

**Reflection Questions:**

- Listen to what you tell yourself about yourself this week. Are you the sum of your worst mistakes or are you who Jesus says you are?
- What sins/transgressions are you still allowing to define you?
- Are there areas of your life you still need to confess to God?

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Confess to the Lord the things you think you're hiding from Him (the only person you are fooling is yourself)
- Give praise to God for the deliverance He has brought you.
- Ask God to remove any last strongholds in your life.

Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9—For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

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## BLUEPRINT WK 2 // DAY 2

**Ephesian 2:4-5a, 11-13 — But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgression....Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

As we read through the book of Ephesians it is hard to miss all that God provides to those who call on his Son. It's hard to miss the reality of God's great love for us, “even when we were dead in transgressions.” But even this, some of us know others, or even we think this about ourselves: “but can God even forgive me? You have no idea what I've done.”

This is the beauty of God's plan: (1) He knew full well, way before we were born, we would need a way out of the messes we create; (2) He knew full well, way before we were born, we would separate ourselves from Him; and, (3) He knew full well, way before we were born, exactly how he would bring all of us close to him—the blood of Jesus. That is the depth of God's love for us. He knew there would be nothing we could bring to him to earn his love. Yet, as the perfect parent, he loves his children because they are his children.

Think about that last line, God loves us perfectly, not because of what we have done but whose we are--His. The truth is, there is nothing any of us can do to earn our salvation. There is nothing we bring which demands a place at “the table.” Nor is there anything that would prevent Him from wanting us with him. So, if you think He is done with you, spend time and read this passage slowly and carefully. Read it with the full knowledge and assurance this passage is for you!

Reflection Questions:

- What are the areas in your life you don't think God can forgive you?
- What area(s) in your life are you playing God with? You don't have the power or authority to determine what will or will not be acceptable or forgivable.
- Is it time for you to ask Jesus to draw you near and allow his Son's blood to cover even your mess-ups?





**Ephesians 2:14-18—For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.**

We probably don't give this enough thought, but God had always had a very real plan in place for the salvation of the world. It wasn't a half-hearted or "oh, no" plan B, it was a plan from the beginning. God decided, in His time he would reveal himself to one righteous man, Abraham. From there, God would begin a people group that would be His. This small family would eventually become a massive nation, Israel. He did this to show himself to the world that God was the author, creator, and sustainer of all. It was through this people group, Israel, He would demonstrate his power and authority to all the world. It was Israel's job to be a light to the Gentiles, that is, all people groups outside of Israel (cf. Isa. 49:6). Though we may think Israel's failure to be the light forced God's hand into plan B that was never the case—God's plans never was, is, or will be thwarted. Eventually, the plan from the beginning would be Jesus: God in the flesh becoming the sacrifice for all mankind. Jew and Gentile, male and female, black, white or anyone in between, all are children the Father looked to reconcile to himself. In Jesus, God is reconciling the world to himself. Jesus is the one who takes all people, from all walks of life, from all different religions, and all different philosophies and offers salvation in and through His birth, life, death, and resurrection. Because of this, the wall of separation is removed. Because of this, no one person or people group are more important than another. Because of this, God is desiring peace under the umbrella of Jesus. The gift of GRACE is free not just to you but to everyone. May we spend our life expressing and shining the light Jesus has placed in each of us who believe.

**Reflection Questions:**

- Have you ever fought against His plan...how did that work out for you? Are you fighting against His plan now...how is that working out for you?
- Who in your life (a person or even a people group) do you struggle with? How can our passage put the struggle into perspective?
- How has the umbrella of God's reconciliation moved you to accepting and expressing grace to yourself and others?

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Who have you maintained a rebellious spirit toward? Is it time to release the bitterness and give to God?
- Give praise to God for accepting you into his family today.
- Who do you need to ask the Father to see as He does?

**Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9—For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.**

**Notes:**

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## BLUEPRINT WK 2 // DAY 5

**Ephesians 2:19-22—Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.**

I’m no construction guy but there are a few things I do know about the process. First, you need a plan—not only of what you are building but ultimately what it will look like and be used for. Second, you need the proper material. No one would build a home using paper and plastic bags—at least no one who would expect it to withstand the elements and test of time. Lastly, what you build upon, the foundation of the building must be solid. Jesus reminds us of this fact in his Sermon on the Mount: ultimately construction upon a shifting foundation is doomed for failure. As the foundation goes, so does the structure built upon it (cf. Mt. 7:24-27).

In our passage today, Paul is reminding each of us we are under construction. We are being built and fashioned to be a temple where the Holy Spirit dwells. In a very real sense, we are the raw material being honed into something great. The foundation we are being built upon is none other than the apostle and the prophets; those who have gone before us. Those whom we have learned about and learned from. It is their example, both good and bad, which gives us strength and durability. And the cornerstone, the stone all measurements are taken from. The stone everything will attach to and rest upon. The stone that will ensure everything remains plumb and level—that stone, is none other than Jesus our Lord. Without Him, the temple will weaken. Without Him, with just the slightest of deviations, will leave us miles away from where we intended.

The intention, the plan has always been and continues to be the use of you and me—even those who are still far off but will come—those who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior are to be a living temple. A living temple means it is not complete. The construction will continue until His return. There is additional “raw material” which has yet to show up, but will. There will be additions, new rooms, upgrades, and improvements along the way. After all, this is no ordinary temple, this is THE Temple in which God lives.



# BLUEPRINT WEEK 3

PASTOR  
YAYO ESPINOSA

**Ephesians 3:1-6—For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.**

Paul is identifying himself as a prisoner of Christ, as he is a prisoner in Rome physically. The prison can be a symbolism of our sins, struggles, battles, and storms. In our daily life we will struggle with our own prisons, but we need to stay focused on Christ and trust His will for us as we can see Paul trusting Jesus Christ. Paul calls the church “mystery.” The word (mysterion) is essentially used by Paul in the New Testament (20 of the 27 appearances) and is always associated with revelation. What is a “mystery”? It is a perspective made available to Christians that was not clear in the Old Testament. Here the “mystery” is the fact that the Gentiles would be “joint heirs and members of the same body, and partners in the promise in Christ Jesus.” The mystery had been revealed, now all of us can be one with the Father.

Here at The Mount, we have a vision: For One More. We want to reveal this mystery to everyone. “This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.” We want to make a difference in people’s lives with the Good News of the Gospel. Remember when you were the ONE?

Reflection Questions:

- What’s your prison? Paul in his prison glorifies Jesus.
- Do you worship Christ in your prison?
- Has this mystery been revealed to you?

Take a Step:

- Have you helped someone (family member, friend, coworker) uncover this mystery?
- We are a church For One More, and we challenge you to join our vision.
- Who are you going to share this mystery with? Make a list of one or two people that you will talk to this week. Pray for them.

Memorize Ephesians 3:7—I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power.

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## BLUEPRINT WK 3 // DAY 2

**Ephesians 3:7-13—I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.**

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of His power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

Paul, as the apostle to the Gentiles, had been called by God to reveal an unexpected aspect of God’s eternal plan. Paul reminded us this plan expresses the “multiform” (that is, complex or multiple forms) plan of God. God is at work in the church, doing much more than we can imagine. But what is important to us is knowing “we have security and access with confidence through faith in Christ.” In the church and your daily walk, you are going to face challenges. Paul reminds us not to be discouraged. If you follow Paul’s example, you should call yourself a servant of Christ. Which means to trust Him in everything and take the Gospel everywhere you go.

Reflection Questions:

- Are you a servant of Christ? The Mount is a church that wants to make a difference in our families, community, and world. Just like Paul we want to take the Good News around the world. We challenge you to join our mission in making a difference. You don’t have to go far; it starts in your backyard.
- How can you volunteer to make a difference at The Mount?
- Have you joined a home group?





**Ephesians 3:7—I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power.**

Paul is identifying himself as a prisoner of Christ, as he is a prisoner in Rome physically. Hopefully by now you have memorized this verse. Let’s look deeper at this verse. We know that Paul used to persecute believers. Jesus encountered him and Paul converted. Since then, Paul’s mission was to take the Gospel all over the world, becoming the first missionary. Paul understood without Jesus he has nothing. Paul challenges us to follow his example, for his goal is to be like Jesus Christ. A servant of Christ knows who the King is. A servant of Christ is one who has voluntarily set aside his or her personal rights to love, serve, and obey the will of God in Christ Jesus. Servants of Christ die daily to sin and fleshly desires, allowing Christ’s life to flow through them. To be a servant of Christ is to seek His will in all things. Our primary desire every day, as servants of Christ, is to honor and glorify the One who bought our freedom from sin. This means we must die to ourselves, renounce our right to direct our own lives, and seek ways to bring our Master pleasure. Just as a master in ancient times took on the responsibility of caring for his bondservants, so our Lord says that He will provide all we need when we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33; Philippians 4:19).

Reflections:

- Servants of Christ put into practice all they learn about pleasing their Lord. While He has specific jobs for each of us according to the gifts and opportunities He provides, some requirements are universal for anyone called to be a servant of Christ:

How to be a servant a servant of Christ

- Continue in faith.
- Destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God
- Take every thought captive to obey Christ (2 Corinthians 10: 5).
- Pursue holy living (1 Peter 1: 14–16).
- Daily crucify the lusts of the flesh (Romans 6: 1–6).
- Love brothers and sisters in the faith (1 John 3: 14–15).
- Store up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6: 19–20).
- Eagerly await the Master’s return (Revelation 22:20; 2 Timothy 4: 8).

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Servants of Christ consider their lives on earth as a brief time of preparation for eternity. The hardships and struggles we must face while in the flesh will be far outmatched by the glory and reward awaiting us.
- Spend time talking to God as you are reflecting this verse.

Memorize Ephesians 3:7—I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power.

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## BLUEPRINT WK 3 // DAY 5

**Ephesians 3:17—So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love.**

Paul is identifying himself as a prisoner of Christ, as he is a prisoner in Rome physically. The How can we be rooted and grounded in love? This rooting and grounding in love was something God had already accomplished for the Ephesians (and for all believers), as Paul has explained, especially in Ephesians 1: 4–14. God Himself has accomplished our rooting and grounding in love. Because we are rooted and grounded in love, and we have this incredible new life by grace through faith (Ephesians 2: 8–9), Christ can be at home in our hearts through faith (Ephesians 3:17a).

There is responsibility on our part. As Paul exhorts us to let the word of Christ dwell richly in us we should actively be pursuing fellowship with Him through His word. Christ already dwells in us (through His Holy Spirit), and we should allow Him to be at home in us. Because God has rooted and grounded us in His own love, we can live in relationship and fellowship with Him, getting to know His amazing love better each day. One of those great blessings is that God has rooted and grounded us in His love.

Reflection Questions:

- How can we be rooted and grounded in love?
- How do you seek God?

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Spend time talking to God as you are reflecting this verse.

Memorize Ephesians 3:7—I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power.

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**BLUEPRINT** WEEK 4

PASTOR  
CALEB EPPERSON

**Ephesians 4:1**—As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

In college, I struggled for the longest time trying to figure out my calling. Then one day I had a conversation with a professor of mine and he reminded me that my first calling is to be a growing follower of Jesus. So, no matter what choice of employment you feel God is leading you to, your first calling is to be a Christ-follower then conduct your walk that is constant to your faith so others can see.

No matter where you work, whether it's in government, hospitals, education or as a stay at home parent, your calling as a believer is to be like Christ and to live a life that reflects your calling.

Paul is reminding his readers in Ephesians (4:1) that we are all called to live in a manner matched to our faith commitment in Jesus. Our goal is to live out what's inside of us. So, if we have made the commitment to follow Jesus then our first calling as sons and daughters of Jesus is to do our best to live in peace and unity with our neighbors and other believers. Paul used the word "walk" seven times in scripture to emphasize the importance of how we walk. To "walk" worthy simply means to conduct our words, actions and attitude that matches our calling in Jesus. There are a lot of worthy pursuits in life. However, none compare to living a life pursuing a relationship with Jesus and to become like Christ in our words and actions.

Reflection Questions:

- In what areas has pursuing a relationship with Jesus changed your life?
- What areas in your life are most challenged when Paul urges believers in verse 1 to live or walk worthy?

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Thank God for his sufficiency on the cross to save you.
- Pray that God will reveal and give you strength in weaker areas of your life to help you walk worthy each day with family, friends, and neighbors.

Memorize Ephesians 4:1—As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

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## BLUEPRINT WK 4 // DAY 2

**Ephesians 4:2-6—Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.**

Paul is identifying himself as a prisoner of Christ, as he is a prisoner in Rome physically. Today the world seems to embrace division over unity. Whether it's your stance on certain views or beliefs. It seems gone are the days when there's respectable discussion without being unfriended or canceled. As believers, if we are not careful, we can adopt the same attitude and actions toward others that disagree with us. We are a church For One More, meaning we are called to reach others who might have different views, beliefs and attitudes. Even believers belonging to the church are not immune to disagreements or disunity from time to time. However, Paul suggests in (4:2-3) we are called to a higher standard and encourages us to do everything we can to keep a unifying spirit with one another. So how do we do this? What are the steps to keeping a unified spirit?

Remember in (4:1) Paul calls us to walk worthy of our calling. In (4:2-3) more specifically Paul reveals many ways to keep the unity and it starts with examining our heart. Humility is the most foundational Christian character trait. Gentleness is the byproduct of having a humble spirit. It's being gentle and emotionally controlled. Patience is enduring when afflicted or at odds. We should practice these with uncontained love that seeks the best. Finally in (4:3), the spirit of God is what unites and bonds us together. We need to always seek peace.

Reflection Questions:

- How does humility, gentleness, and patience help aid in bearing in love for others at home, works or with neighbors?
- When dealing with conflict with another believer what is one strength you have and one area you need help from God to grow in?

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Thank God for giving clear paths on how to maintain healthy unity
- What ways can you be a unifier?

Memorize Ephesians 4:1 —As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

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## BLUEPRINT WK 4 // DAY 3

**Ephesians 4:7-12**—But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captive and gave gifts to his people.” He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe. So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

God gifted every one of us. Each believer received gifts. The first gift is salvation and by the grace of God He gave us spiritual gifts. These gifts are used to serve Jesus and others to build His church. How we develop and use those gifts is very important. At the Mount there’s many opportunities to develop and grow your giftings to serve others.

Reflection Questions:

- Why are these gifts so important to help build up the church?
- What ways can we be better equipped to serve the church?
- Are you currently using your gifts to serve the church?

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Thank God for the giftings he has given for you
- Ask God to show you ways you can serve using your gifts

Memorize Ephesians 4:1—As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

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## BLUEPRINT WK 4 // DAY 4

**Ephesians 4:13-16—until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.**

Today there are many things consuming our time and energy. We feed our thoughts and beliefs with wrong things. This passage reminds us we are to mature in our faith and use our thoughts and energy to be unified with Christ. We do this by reading the Bible, praying, joining a Life group, giving and serving. A maturing Christian is not one that gets tossed back and forth by the waves of false teaching, shifty culture or trends. We are called to focus our attention on Jesus for peace, guidance and understanding. We find unity when we are all moving in the same direction as a church.

Reflection Questions:

- In what areas of your life has God's Word helped grow your faith?
- Why is it so important to stay connected to other believers?

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Thank God for His Word and that He will continue to mature and grow through the teaching of His word and through other believers.

Memorize Ephesians 4:1—As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

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## BLUEPRINT WK 4 // DAY 5

**Ephesians 4:17-32—So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 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; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

In the beginning of chapter 4, Paul encourages us to walk wise in all areas of our life. Walk wise in our home, job, with neighbors and friends. Then Paul urges his readers not to fall back into our old (gentile or unbeliever) ways of thinking and acting from before we knew Christ. Paul reminds us there is hope. When we submit our life to Jesus, we have a new way of living. Paul is reminding readers we are called to a higher standard of conducting our life. We can choose to trust Jesus in every area of our life and ask Him daily to strengthen our walk. Paul closes out this chapter by encouraging all his readers to be kind, compassionate and forgiving to others. We all will experience hurt on some level. This is a great reminder that Jesus died for our sins, and He forgives us of our sins. With this in our mind, we should be willing to forgive others.



# BLUEPRINT WEEK 5

PASTOR  
JOHN COOK

# BLUEPRINT WK 5 // DAY 1

**Ephesians 5:1-2—Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

The apostle Paul is very intentional in the letter of Ephesians. In a very simplistic breakdown, Paul reminds his readers what they have in God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit (Chapters 1-3). The second half of the letter, he reminds his readers because of what they have through the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, this is how we ought to live (Chapters 4-6). From the very start of chapter 5 Paul sets the foundational premise of the believer’s aim: his or her purpose, his or her goal is to **imitate the Christ**.

How many of us have heard, “You look/act just like your mother” or “You look/act just like your dad when you do...” Those little behaviors, the little quirks, the small phrases are things we learned from our parents. We learned them because we spent so much time with them, around them and learning from them. The same is true with our Heavenly Father. The more time we spend with Him, around Him and learning from Him we not only begin to imitate Him, we begin to reflect Him to those we come in contact with. This is the model Jesus demonstrated because, as the Son, He was in lock-step with the Father. The love demonstrated by Jesus is the love He learned from the Father. The life of sacrifice was what He learned from the Father. Like Jesus, we too are God’s children, dearly loved, empowered, infused with the Spirit, and expected to reflect Him. Let us spend time learning from the Father so we are like the Father as we walk in love.

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Give thanks for the love shown to you.
- Ask God to reveal areas in your life void of the imitation of Christ.
- Ask God for the eyes to see one event/person you ought to imitate Christ in today.

Reflection Questions:

- What areas of your life intimidate Christ?
- What areas of your life intimidate the world?
- What relationship of yours needs the love of Jesus demonstrated?

Memorize Ephesians 5:1-2—Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God..

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## BLUEPRINT WK 5 // DAY 2

**Ephesians 5:3-13—But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.**

**For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. Associate with one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

I think it is a safe assumption, none of us would consider ourselves active enemies of God—though in our sinful state apart from Jesus that is what we were. I equally believe we would not consider ourselves partners with evil or even partners of the world. However, if we fight against the transformation God wants to bring about in our thinking and our actions, we are deceiving ourselves. We think we are walking in love but in actuality we are still walking according to our will.

In this chapter Paul demonstrates the difference between walking in love and its antithesis—walking in the world. He is reminding us of the countercultural, world changing difference between darkness and light. The light brings clarity, goodness, and truth. Darkness brings confusion, shame, and disobedience. Light brings freedom. Darkness brings regret. The antidote to darkness is light. A light that shines in the darkness cannot be hidden nor can darkness overpower light.

As we walk in love, let God’s light shine in your dark places—those recesses within ourselves we intentionally avoid or worse, won’t let ourselves address. Let the light overcome all our darkness. Trust me, there is nothing we have done that is shocking to God—He already knows. What He wants is to walk with us more fully as we walk in His love.

Reflection Questions:

- We all have them...what is your sin(s) that you continue to hold onto—the sin(s) you actually like?
- What part of your life do you find yourself partnering with the world?
- What new “fruit” do you want others to see about you?





## BLUEPRINT WK 5 // DAY 4

**Ephesians 5:21-24—Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.**

Both today and tomorrow's thoughts we will finish out the remainder of chapter five of Ephesians. Often, we look at these verses simply discussing the marriage. However, there is much more to this than just the marriage relationship between a husband and wife. It is an example of Jesus and His bride the church. It is the example of the role of Jesus toward His bride. It is the example of what walking in love truly looks like. Secondly it is a view of what a loving relationship between a husband and wife can and should look like.

Our thoughts today will focus simply on the misunderstanding of the above verses, 5:21-24, specifically the word, "submit." Men have demanded wives to submit as if their wives were unequal or in some way inferior to the man. Wives have rebelled while making it perfectly clear she will not submit to her husband. Be it misogyny, feminism, arrogance, or ignorance, the word "submit" is now surrounded by horrendously negative connotations resulting in self-inflicted disunity and hardship.

In the original Greek the word translated submit or submission did not have the idea of inferior or someone to be lorded over. Instead, submission was a willing act of placing oneself under the authority of another. This is the example of Jesus. Though equal in value and worth with God (since he was indeed God in the flesh), His life on earth was one of willingly placing himself under God's authority. Equally, Christ could have demanded and exercised his authority over all of humanity, instead He came and served the created—the Creator served the created. In love, God came in the flesh as Jesus Christ and became submissive to man. Let that sink in for a moment...

A key reason (5:22-24) have caused so much angst is that we conveniently skip over (5:21), "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Regardless of male or female, husband or wife, walking in love requires I be mindful of the interests of others. When I walk in love, I willingly am submissive, not looking down upon or thinking I'm superior, but serving others out of reverence—dare I say it—in awe of God.

Reflection Questions:

- When you think of the word submission what thoughts/feelings arise in you?
- Who do you allow yourself to be accountable and submissive to?
- Spend time reexamining the submission of Christ to God the Father and to you as the created. What thoughts/emotions are evoked?

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Pray for God to give you eyes to see the value and worth of the people in your life.
- Search my heart God; show me areas in which I lord over others and change me.
- Lord, strengthen me with your courage to be submissive and serve those around me.

Memorize Ephesians 5:1-2—Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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## BLUEPRINT WK 5 // DAY 5

**Ephesians 5:25-33—Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.**

Let’s face it, for those of us who are married we know marriage can be the most challenging relationship we will ever enter. When things are hard and difficult, things seems as if they cannot get any worse. Marriage is so difficult, ultimately, because there are two selfish people, who want what they want, when they want it, and how they want it. Words are said that would never be said to anyone else. Behaviors and actions displayed, if done in public, would appall others around us and destroy any positive reputation we might have. Why is this? Maybe its because within the marriage there is a sense of safety—this is the only place I can get away with being a total selfish jerk.

Inversely, when the marriage and the relationship are good, there just isn’t anything better. Finding the “sweet-spot” apart from Jesus and his example will leave us, at best, frustrated in our marriage. At worse, couples begin the practice of slipping farther and farther from the very one he/she promised “to love and cherish until death do us part.”



# BLUEPRINT WEEK 6

PASTOR  
JASON WINDSOR

## BLUEPRINT WK 6 // DAY 1

**Ephesians 6:1-4—Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**

There isn't a lot of wiggle room in the first line. Kids, obey your parents... Why? Because it is right. Not when you want to, not when it is convenient. Obey your parents because it is right to do so. There is no expiration date on this. It doesn't say obey until you turn 18 or 21. The simple directive is, “Obey your parents.”

When you obey your parents, you honor them, and this commandment carries a promise. Honoring your parents means that “it may go well with you and you may enjoy a long life.” Obedience benefits everyone: Parents and children, and we parents love this Scripture. It is very popular and makes it into a lot of sermons, but the following verse is even more important. “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” How we parent can inspire or discourage obedience in our children. We all have had teachers and bosses that we enjoyed learning from and working for. The way they conducted themselves inspired confidence and unity, and that atmosphere made it easy to follow them and obey their requests. On the other hand, we have all had teachers and bosses who were difficult to be around. They asked us to do things that didn't make sense and created an atmosphere of chaos or hypocrisy.

As parents, the culture we create in our homes matters. If we are constantly changing the “rules” or constantly criticizing, we are not inspiring obedience. If we ask our children to do things that we do not do, we demonstrate hypocrisy, which never inspires obedience. The leader of the home sets the culture, so as parents, we need to check ourselves and ask if I am obeying my heavenly Father in the same way that I expect my child to obey me.

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Pray for all parents. Ask God to give them wisdom and strength.
- Ask God to inspire you to honor your parents.
- Thank God for the example He sets for us.

### Reflection Questions

- Do your actions honor your parents?
- If you are a parent, are you creating a culture where obedience is easier or harder?
- Do you obey your Heavenly Father with the same passion you desire obedience?

Memorize Ephesians 6:12— 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.

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## BLUEPRINT WK 6 // DAY 2

**Ephesians 6:10-13—Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 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. 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.**

Paul starts to wrap up His letter to the Ephesians by reminding them to “be strong in the Lord.” He doesn’t want them full of pride and depending on their own talents and strengths. He implores them to humbly be strengthened by the Lord’s mighty power. Why?

We have an adversary that seeks to harm us. “The powers of this dark world” separate people from the love of Christ and distract and harm those who do know Christ. As Christians we recognize those schemes through God’s discerning Spirit when we rely on who we know God to be and what He values. We must be strong in the Lord and strong in His word if we are to “take our stand” against a supernatural force that hates God. We lack the power to see and fight these spiritual battles, but our Heavenly Father does not.

We often are ignorant of who the enemy is in the first place. Paul reminds us that we aren’t really struggling against those around us. Our enemies aren’t in the workplace or in our school. Our battle is against the “spiritual forces of evil.” Our battle is against the spiritual forces that turn hearts and minds away from Jesus Christ, and this can be difficult for us to comprehend. We often understand the danger in front of us: bad bosses, bad coaches, mean people. But those people are not our enemies; in fact, those are people who Jesus loves and is calling to know Him. When we fight against those around us, we take our eyes off the true danger: thoughts and philosophies that drive us from Jesus Christ...and these are often in our own mind.

When Paul tells us to “put on the full armor of God,” he is reminding us of two spiritual truths: first, there is an adversary that seeks to separate humankind from God; and two, that we must prepare our hearts and minds to face the adversary’s schemes. When we study God’s word, we are getting protection for the battle ahead. When we pray with him and learn to hear His voice, we are putting on armor that will protect us and others in the spiritual battle. Only a fool enters a battle unprepared; let us not be that fool.



“Stand firm!” Paul urges the church at Ephesus. There is an adversary, and he seeks to attack you; when you face those challenges do not leave the faith or cower. Instead stand strong and faithful for the Lord. This is a tall task: It takes courage; it takes faith; and it takes preparation. Paul spells out this preparation in the form of a suit of armor, with each piece representing something we will need for the battle waging around us. He begins with truth. If we are to discern lies and call them what they are, we will need to know the truth. All truth comes from God and is revealed by Him, and we will need His truth to stand firm against the lies that seek to divide and destroy.

We will also need righteousness. Not a righteousness that comes from our own obedience, but a righteousness that comes from believing that Jesus is who He says He is. If we rely on our own obedience for righteousness, we will lose heart as we are not able to live up to a perfect standard; however, when we know that our righteousness comes from Christ Jesus, our hearts are protected and we can stand firm in the faith relying on His righteousness.

We will also need to understand what the Gospel means. The good news that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and is coming back for those who believe brings peace to those who embrace it. No matter what we are asked to endure on this earth, a glorious future with Jesus has been secured for us. We can be at peace because we know the One we worship is greater than our adversary and that our future with Jesus is a certainty.

Our faith will also guard us when doubt and tragedy make an appearance. It is easy to take our eyes off what is important and forget who God is. When this happens, we can doubt if He is real or if He cares or if we are His; but our faith keeps us anchored to our Father. We believe in what is unseen and trust in His promises because we have His Spirit and we know His goodness.

The assurance that we are saved protects our minds from doubt as well, and the “sword of the Spirit” is the greatest weapon in our arsenal. When we memorize Scripture, we arm ourselves against the ideas and lies that work against Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit calls specific truths to mind for specific times and we can fight against those lies and lead others to Him.

If we take Paul’s advice and seek these ideas and attitudes, we will be well prepared for the battle ahead.

*Prayer is making room to talk to and hear from God: The following are some suggestions to get the conversation started:*

- Thank God for giving us His Word to learn His truth.
- Ask God to prepare you for your calling.
- Ask God to reveal where your preparation needs to improve.

Reflection Questions:

- Which of the pieces of armor that Paul describes do you find to be the most important?
- Why is it important that we prepare for our adversaries?
- In which areas of preparation do you need to improve and how will you make those adjustments?

Memorize Ephesians 6:12—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.

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