



Open it

1. What is the most encouraging thing someone has done for you?

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore the Passage

Read Ephesians 6:18–24.

2. How should we pray? (18)
3. What is Paul's "prayer request"? (19–20)
4. How is Tychicus described? (21)
5. Why did Paul send Tychicus? (22)

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Make My Life a Prayer

Read Ephesians 6:18-19.

One of my favorite Christian artists when I was in my late teens and early 20's was Keith Green! I loved listening to him, not so much because of the melody of the song, but because of the richness of his lyrics. One of my favorite songs that Keith sang was "Make My Life a Prayer to You," which paints a beautiful picture of how Paul instructs us to live out prayer. Here are some of the first two verses from that song:

"Make my life a prayer to You/ I wanna do what You want me to/ No empty words and no white lies/ No token prayers, no compromise/ I wanna shine the light You gave/ Through Your Son You sent to save us/ From ourselves and our despair/ It comforts me to know You're really there

*I wanna die and let You give/ Your life to me so I might live/ And share the hope You gave to me/ The love that set me free/ I wanna tell the world out there/ You're not some fable or fairy tale/ That I've made up inside my head/ You're God the Son, You've risen from the dead"*¹

Paul asks the Ephesians believers to pray at all times, with all kinds of prayer, praying in the Spirit, with alertness and for all of the saints. What does this look like for us? It's Facetiming God 24/7! It's asking God to strengthen and encourage other believers in our lives. It's being attentive to the ways that the enemy will attack us. It's never giving up!

6. What does it look like for a Christian who *makes his life a prayer to God*?

7. Carefully read the lyrics to Keith Green's song "Make My Life a Prayer" above. Which phrases stick out to you? Why do you like these phrases?

8. What is one way you can grow in your prayer life this week to reflect how Paul instructs us to pray?

¹ <https://genius.com/Keith-green-make-my-life-a-prayer-to-you-lyrics>

Day 3 — Today's Theme: Who Do You Represent?

Read Ephesians 6:19-20.

When I was younger, my parents always told me to be on my best behavior when I was at school or at someone's home, because my behavior is a reflection and representation of them as to who they are and how they raised me! Paul says that he is an ambassador. An ambassador represents his country and king. Paul reminds us that he is in prison when he says that he is in chains. Even under Paul's difficult circumstances of imprisonment, being a representative of Jesus was always at the forefront of his mind.

There is a key word repeated twice in these two verses, and that is boldness. You would think that if anyone would have no problem being bold, it would be the Apostle Paul. It is interesting to note that Paul didn't ask the Ephesian believers to pray that he would be released from prison, but that he would be bold in sharing the gospel. In the same way, we need to pray for boldness when it comes to sharing the gospel with our friends and neighbors. Maybe a reason why we don't share the gospel with those around us is that we don't pray for opportunities and more importantly pray for boldness.

9. In what situations can it be difficult to represent Christ?

10. How do you represent Christ among your friends?

11. How would your life be different if you lived a life of boldness as an ambassador for Christ wherever you go?

Read Ephesians 6:21-22

Who are your friends? What common interests do you have with them? What things do you do together? How do you talk with each other? What kind of character do they have?

Paul closes out Ephesians talking about one of his close friends, Tychicus, that he is sending to the Ephesian believers so that Paul can give a report on how he and the other believers with him are doing and encourage them.

We learn that Tychicus was a faithful minister in the Lord. This means that he was a reliable friend who not only shared the Gospel and God's Word with others but used the gifts that God gave him to serve others. Do you have any friends like Tychicus? Are you that kind of person to your friends?

Think about the friends you hang out with the most. In I Corinthians 15:33, Paul says, "*Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'*" Your friends can either bring you down or build you up. This does not mean that we are to not have unbelieving friends who are living sinful lives. We are called to be in the world but not of the world (John 17:16) so that we can be a light for Jesus in the darkness and further His Kingdom. Your closest friends should be faithful ministers who use their time, talents, and treasures to encourage you and others to follow Jesus, and you should be doing the same for them.

12. What qualities make a good friend?

13. Who are your closest friends? How do they draw you closer to Jesus or farther away from Jesus?

14. What kind of friend are you? Is there anything you need to change to be a more Christ-centered friend? Is God calling you to do anything with your friends?

Read Ephesians 6:23-24.

*"²³ **Peace** be to the brothers, and **love** with **faith**, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ **Grace** be with all who **love** our Lord Jesus Christ with **love incorruptible**."*

It's easy to quickly read the last couple of verses in a letter like Ephesians and not pay attention to the blessings Paul is telling us that we have in Christ! How often do we hear words like peace, love, faith, and grace, but don't take time to understand the depth of their meaning. Below are the definitions of those words to help you soak in the riches that you have in Christ:

Peace — to join or bind together that which has been separated; literally pictures the binding or joining together again of that which had been separated or divided and thus setting at one again."² We were enemies of God because of our sin, but now we have peace with God through Jesus (Romans 5:1)

Love — Unconditional love, love like God gives, supernatural love possible only by those who are filled with the Spirit, walk by the Spirit, and bear the fruit of the Spirit.³

Incorruptible — a state of not being subject to decay or death,...It speaks of an unending existence....⁴ We have unconditional love from God, but we also love Jesus with unending incorruptible love.

Faith — trust, belief as a gift from the Father and the Son. ⁵ God gives us faith to believe in Him!

Grace — is a beneficent disposition toward someone, and specifically in the Biblical context is God's attitude toward human beings resulting in an outflow from His throne of grace of His inexhaustible kindness, favor, helpfulness, care, help, goodwill.⁶

15. Which word above sticks out the most to you? Why did you pick that word?

16. What is one main thought that you want to take away from the book of Ephesians?

² https://www.preceptaustin.org/ephesians_623-24

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

Note: This study was written by Pastor Mario Arindaeng. www.villagebible.church/students.