

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## EPHESIANS 5-6

In the Bible, "the way we walk" means more than how we move our feet. It's about how we live our lives! It's more about our lifestyle, than merely our gait.

Beginning in Chapter 4 Paul told us how to move through life as believers in Jesus. Now in Chapter 5 the theme continues... walk in love, walk in the light, walk in wisdom, and walk in submission to one another...

Chapter 5 begins, Ephesians 5:1 "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children." Kids are prone to mimic their heroes.

When I was a child my hero was my dad. I'd sit in the bathroom and watch dad brush his teeth. Dad wore dentures, so he'd pull out his plate and scrub them with his toothbrush. Mom says she'd walk in on me, and I'd be brushing my imaginary dentures - *mimicking dad...*

God wants us to mimic Him - we should walk as Jesus walked. *And here's how,* verse 2, 5:2 "walk in love..."

My psychology book in college defined the word 5:2 "love" as "an agitated state of psychological arousal." *But is that real love?* Imagine, gazing into your honey's eyes, and whispering, "*Baby, you agitate my psyche!*"

I believe love is more than a burning brain wave. It's more than a feeling or emotion. For the true definition of love you have to look to its author. On the cross our Lord Jesus illustrated for us what love is all about...

Paul states in verse 2, 5:2 "And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

According to Jesus' example genuine love involves giving, and offering, and sacrificing. It's a commitment. Amy Carmichael wrote, "*You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving.*" Jesus gave up His rights, His security, His comfort. He sacrificed it all to save us. *Sacrifice* is now the plumb-line for real love.

And in verse 3 he mentions three **lusts** that are the exact opposite of **love**, 5:3 "But **fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints...**" Love is all about *giving* - whereas, **lust** is all about *getting*.

Two stray dogs in an alley like each other enough to have sex, *but that's not love.* True love willingly waits!

It never *uses or defiles or dishonors* the one it loves. Love *lays down what I want and lives for God's best!* A Christian will preserve the purity of their future spouse... *Christians are called to love one another.*

It reminds me of the two lovers. The woman asked the man, *"Do you love me?"* He answered, *"Yes, dear I do."* She asked again, *"Would you die for me?"* To which he replied, *"Sorry, mine is an undying devotion."* Love that won't die to what **I selfishly want** - that won't put **God's will** and **your best** first - is not a true love.

Paul keeps describing what real love avoids, <sup>5:4</sup> *"neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks."*

You can tell a lot about a person by what makes them laugh. Neither *crude humor*, or *borderline banter*, or *sexual innuendo* should come from a Christian. Our vocal cords should vibrate with thanksgiving to God.

Verse 5, <sup>5:5</sup> *"For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."*

Here are three folks who won't go to heaven - *for none of them are capable of restraint.* A **fornicator**, or person who continually engages in illicit sex - his downfall is lust... the **unclean** person disregards God's taboos, he or she makes up their own rules - their downfall is pride... and the **covetous** man lives for material things - gold and glitz - his downfall is greed...

And notice, this <sup>5:5</sup> *"covetous man"* is labeled <sup>5:5</sup> *"an idolater."* Most of today's Americans would never bow to a statue - but they worship sex, and independence, and money. When you value something supremely, and pursue it at all costs, it's the equivalent of an idol.

It reminds me of the young businessman who flipped his car over the guardrail and went down a steep embankment. The twisted metal severed off his arm.

When the hero units finally reached him, the guy just kept whining, *"Oh, my Mercedes. Oh, my Mercedes."*

The paramedics were appalled that this guy was so materialistic all he could think about was his car. One of the EMTs scolded him, *"Buddy, you've got more to worry about than your car. Your arm was chopped off."*

The man suddenly gets this panicked look on his face, and starts crying, *"Oh, my Rolex. Oh, my Rolex." The moral of the story... be careful what you worship!*

Verse 6, <sup>5:6</sup> *"Let no one deceive you with empty words (or false assurances), for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."*

Realize, *God is no fool*. You can say you worship Him, yet in reality worship sex, or self, or stuff. It's not what you say that matters, it's the pursuit of your heart.

Verse 7 warns those of us who are Christians not to follow idols. **5:7 "Therefore do not be partakers with them."**

**5:8 "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord."** Notice, according to Paul we didn't just walk in darkness, we were darkness. And now that we're in Christ we don't just walk in light, we are light!

Changes occur deep inside a Christian. We don't just change environments - we become a new person. The light of God now shines *from inside* us. A Christian is a spiritual fire-fly. He or she lights up their dark world.

Paul encourages us to **5:8 "walk as children of light 5:9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 5:10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord."**

*Goodness to others, right-ness with God, and truth in all things* - are the three rays that make up God's light.

Verse 11, **5:11 "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them."**

In the wintertime northern cities use salt to clear the roads of ice and snow. Thus, a mixture of exhaust, and salt, and snow gets plastered onto the sides of everyone's car - they all end up looking a murky-gray.

But on the first semi-springlike day some fellow will wash his car and restored it to its original color. And when everyone else on the block sees the one clean car they realize how dirty their cars have become.

*And as Christians we are called to be **the one clean car!*** Without condemning anyone or being judgmental - we are to expose the darkness by shining God's light.

**5:12 "For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret."** Some sins are so shameful they shouldn't even be mentioned. Nothing is gained by talking about them. It's best left in silence.

We drive out the darkness not by studying it, or discussing it, or fighting it - but by shining the light!

**5:13 "But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light."** What the world needs is for us to walk in God's light.

**5:14 "Therefore He says ("he" being Isaiah): "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."** We need to be wide awake to God's concerns.

A battle rages around us. It's one thing that the world is asleep in the dark, but

what's more tragic is that the Church is asleep in the light. We need to wake up!

<sup>5:15</sup> "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise..." <sup>5:15</sup> "Circumspectly" means "to walk gingerly, to be careful where you plant your feet." I learned to walk <sup>5:15</sup> "circumspectly" when my kids were toddlers...

My boys played with Legos, and invariably not all of the legos were picked up when they were done. And usually, I would inadvertently find the stray Legos in the middle of the night... *Step on a Lego and it hurts!* As a result I learned to walk <sup>5:15</sup> "circumspectly" or "carefully."

And this is how we should live in a dark world. Satan is notorious for throwing banana peels on the sidewalk. One false move can cause years of pain and agony.

Once I heard a fallen preacher who'd been involved in a sordid affair make the statement, "It's amazing how fifteen minutes can ruin your life." What a warning!

We need to <sup>5:15</sup> "walk circumspectly," and here's how... First, <sup>5:16</sup> "redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

If you live to be 80 years old, and throughout your life you work 5 days a week, 8 hours a day - sleep 8 hours a night - travel about 1 hour each day - spend 2 hours eating - and an hour daily on grooming and hygiene... *then here's the discretionary time you have left...*

If you're 20, you've got about 15 years left to invest in non-mandatory activities... If you're 35, you've got just 10 years of life left... If you're 45 you've got only 7.5 years to live as you please... If you're 55 it's down to 4.5 years... And if 65 years old you've got less than 18 months to spend your life as you see fit... And if you're 75, we may or may not see you next Sunday...

*Time is running out!* If you want your life to count for God's Kingdom you don't have a second to waste!

Paul writes, <sup>5:17</sup> "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." And here is God's will for us all, <sup>5:18</sup> "do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit."

Recall at the Feast of Pentecost the original disciples were filled with the Spirit, but the onlookers accused them of being drunk. Apparently, there're ways that being filled with the Holy Spirit is like being drunk with wine. God's Spirit can suppress natural inhibitions, He definitely impacts our thinking, and effects our disposition. *Ultimately, He influences our behavior.*

The difference is that alcohol causes <sup>5:18</sup> "dissipation" or disorientation. It clouds my perspective and deadens my senses. Whereas, God's Spirit does the opposite. He

brings clarity, and heightens my awareness of God.

**Distilled spirits** sends me into a tailspin - whereas, the **Holy Spirit** helps me gain and maintain control.

And the Holy Spirit produces an unbridled joy - a spiritual high. Be filled with the Spirit and you're prone to uninhibited worship. Verse 19, <sup>5:19</sup> "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, <sup>5:20</sup> giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..." If you've never done so, you need to ask God to fill you with His Spirit!

Then verse 21, <sup>5:21</sup> "submitting to one another in the fear of God." To walk worthy of our calling let's walk *in love, in light, in wisdom, and in submission to one another.*

Now some of you know what's coming next. You've read verse 22, <sup>5:22</sup> "wives, submit to your husbands..." The wives are cringing and the husbands are perking up.

But before Paul says a word about wives submitting to husbands, he tells us all to <sup>5:21</sup> "submit to one another."

When I'm filled with the Spirit my needs are met, so I can focus on the needs of other people. That's why the key to marriage is to be filled with the Spirit! It's been said, "Two people can have a happy marriage, only after they get a divorce from themselves."

But once we take to heart verse 21; then verse 22 applies, <sup>5:22</sup> "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord." I'm reminded of the man who asked the librarian to help him find the book titled, "Man - Master of His Home." She pointed him to the "fiction" section.

Indeed, Paul's instructions for husbands and wives won't win any awards for political correctness. Today, very few marriages are ordered biblically. But take note... *today, very few marriages last!* Before you toss out God's wisdom you should take a second look...

First, realize what Paul is **not** saying. No wife should become a doormat for a selfish or abusive husband. The Greek word translated <sup>5:22</sup> "submit" is "hupotasso." It means, "to arrange under, or to line up behind."

Biblical submission doesn't mean a wife can't have a life of her own. But she's to arrange her life around her husband's. You could say, the husband sketches the lines of the picture, while the wife colors between those lines. Both parties contribute equally to the painting, but they play different roles. *It's an ordered equality.*

If someone says, "you're running around like a chicken with its head cut off" - it's not a compliment.

All bodies need a head - *not two heads, not no head, but one head*. That's why God established a single head over the family. And it's the husband's role to supply that leadership, while the wife lends support.

Billy Graham's wife, Ruth, once commented, "The best advice I can give to unmarried girls is to marry someone you don't mind adjusting to. God tailors the wife to fit the husband, not the husband to fit the wife."

5:23 "For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 5:24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything."

Notice, marital roles aren't assigned arbitrarily. In marriage, God is painting a picture of realities that go far beyond our domestic concerns. The reason your marriage is such a big deal is that God gives it universal, eternal, mystical meaning that transcends you. Marriage has a bigger purpose than just making two people happy. It's a spiritual snapshot. Its mission is to portray divine realities, and both participants should be "*sub*" or "*under that mission*." **Sub-mission!**

God has chosen to illustrate Christ's relationship with the Church through your relationship with your spouse.

This is what makes marriage so sacred and special.

Kathy and I are co-stars in a long-running heavenly production. I'm the leading man, she's the leading lady, and together we are portraying to friends and family the greatest love story ever told, the Gospel of Christ. This is why it's critical we both play our assigned parts!

And in my opinion the most difficult role in the drama belongs to the husband. Verse 25, 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for her." *That gentlemen is a tall order!*

A wife should love her husband enough to live for him, but a husband should love his wife enough to die for her. And not just once - in a gallant act - but in a million daily ways he should be willing to lay down his rights to protect, and nurture, and minister to his wife.

But there's more, 5:26 "that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word..." *Are we loving our wives in ways that refresh and purify her?*

Are we pointing her to Jesus - His forgiveness and acceptance - or do we

*regurgitate her faults and failures?* Do we treat her with grace, or grade her on performance? *Do I love my wife as Jesus loves me?*

For here is the Lord's goal for His Church... 5:27 "that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish." Jesus desires a glorious church. Though we're wounded and wrinkled, and have our age spots - He sees us with no spots.

He's committed to cleansing us and escorting us into His glory. This is how a husband should treat his wife.

Verse 28, 5:28 "So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 5:30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones." As a man nourishes his body, a husband should help his wife grow as a person and as a Christian. Here's a question for husbands, "Since she married you, has your wife gotten prettier or plainer? Is she flourishing or floundering?" In other words, "What have you been doing to help her grow and glow?"

Here's a wise saying, "Treat your wife like a thoroughbred, and she will never be a nag." A good husband enriches his wife, he doesn't smother or stifle.

This is why I say, the husband's job is tougher. Ladies, all you have to do is respect and follow his lead. His job is to love you as Christ loves the church!

Verse 31 quotes Genesis 2, God's original plan for marriage, 5:31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 5:32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church." A marriage in God's eyes is when one man and one woman... do 3 things:

They **leave** - there's a separation from their parents.

They **cleave** - there's a dedication to their spouse.

And they **weave** their lives - there's a growing unification that requires a lifetime to complete. They **leave, cleave, weave**, and if God blesses **conceive!**

Verse 33 reiterates what men and women need most, 5:33 "Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." **Women need love and men need respect.** This is why husbands should love their wives, and wives should respect their husbands.

And it has a snowball effect... When a husband loves his wife, she respects him - which prompts more love for her, which then solicits more respect for him.

But the snowball can roll in reverse... If a husband feels disrespected he won't love

his wife as he should, which fuels more disrespect in her... the beat goes on.  
Husbands need to love, and wives need to respect.

*And what about parents and kids?* Chapter 6, <sup>6:1</sup> “Children, obey your parents.” And this commandment to children becomes the priority of a parent. Moms and dads your job, first and foremost, isn’t to just nurture, or educate, or provide... it’s to teach your child obedience and respect. He or she is to learn from you how to follow a higher principle and authority. Sadly, today its parents who obey their kids. It should be the opposite.

Yet, note the qualification, <sup>6:1</sup> “Children, obey your parents **in the Lord**, for this is **right**.” God would never expect a wife, or child to obey or submit to an ungodly or immoral demand - that would be a violation of God’s will. It’s been said, “**Godly submission never requires what God forbids, or forbids what God requires.**”

But when good parents desire God's best for their child; then the child should learn to obey their parents.

Verse 2, <sup>6:2</sup> “Honor your father and mother...” And this is what makes a parent’s job so tricky. You can force a child to obey, but you inspire or earn honor and respect. *And parents are to do both simultaneously.*

<sup>6:2</sup> “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: <sup>6:3</sup> “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” Kids, you’ll live longer and better if you listen to your parents!

<sup>6:4</sup> “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” The Greek word translated <sup>6:4</sup> “training” means “discipline.” <sup>6:4</sup> “Admonition” is “encouragement.”

Martin Luther use to say a parent needs both *a rod* and an *apple* to raise kids. *Wait, that’s not the right apple.* He meant a rod to spank the child when he rebels, and an apple to reward his good and godly initiative. Raising children requires a healthy balance. Kids need *a rod of correction* and *a nod of approval*.

As Christians, let’s live out our high calling at home, **and** on the job! Verse 5, <sup>6:5</sup> “Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ...”

The Roman world of Paul’s day was full of slaves or <sup>6:5</sup> “bondservants.” Some of you may think your boss treats you like a slave, but you’re not one. Yet what Paul says to slaves also applies to modern employees.

And he tells us to **obey the boss**. We should tackle our duties as if Jesus Himself

assigned them to us. Work with sincerity - from the heart, as if we were serving Jesus Himself - not just earning a paycheck.

Verse 6, <sup>6:6</sup> “not with eyeservice, as menpleasers...” We have all seen this firsthand. The boss walks in the room and everybody gets busy. He exits and everyone slacks off. That’s <sup>6:6</sup> “eyeservice, as menpleasers.”

We need to do our work <sup>6:6</sup> “as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>6:7</sup> with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men...”

For me the real measure of spiritual maturity is the ability to do whatever we do to God’s glory... *whether it’s turning a wrench, or programming a computer, or servicing a customer* - can we do it as unto the Lord? **We should all be able to turn work into worship!**

Verse 8, <sup>6:8</sup> “knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free...” The eternal paycheck you receive won’t be signed by your employer, but by the Lord.

And verse 9 has some instructions for the bosses. <sup>6:9</sup> “And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.”

**A boss should always remember he also has a boss.** He should treat His workers fairly and charitably.

And you should recognize the revolutionary impact of Paul's instructions on marriage, parenting, and labor.

All ancient cultures taught that wives should submit to husbands - children to parents - bondservants to masters. That was nothing new. But Christianity was the first and only faith to introduce the principle of **reciprocal responsibility**. Husbands also had an obligation to love their wives. Parents should never provoke a child. Bosses shouldn’t bully workers... **The Christian ethic transformed both home and work.**

Which brings us to the third section of this book. We are *seated in Christ*, we’re to *walk worthy of our calling*, now we need to *stand against the devil*. For like a child a Christian learns to **sit**; then **walk**; and then **stand**.

Verse 10, <sup>6:10</sup> “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>6:11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand** against the wiles of the devil.” And whenever it comes to dealing with the devil, humans are prone to two mistakes...

On the one hand we **underestimate** him. Satan loves for us to think of him off as a

little imp in red leotards, horns, tail, and pitchfork. Perhaps the devil's greatest feat is in making so many people think he doesn't exist. Don't take him seriously, and you'll fall into his traps.

But on the other hand, don't **overestimate** him. Satan is not God's equal. He's *infinitely inferior*. He is a created being gone sour - an angel booted out of the choir because of a runaway ego. Yes, he has power, but God is greater! 1John 4:4 tells us, <sup>1 John 4:4</sup> "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

Remember Satan is a defeated foe. The only time the devil can hassle a Christian is when we let him. We need to withstand as James 4:7 tells us, <sup>James 4:7</sup> "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." On your own you're no match for the evil One, but Paul says, <sup>6:10</sup> "**be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.**" Let's be strong!

For no one knows Satan's limitations better than he does. That's why seldom does he attack us head-on. If he does we'll run you straight to Jesus, and it'll be curtains for him. Thus, Satan prefers a bag of tricks.

Paul calls them <sup>6:11</sup> "**the wiles of the devil**" - *doubt, fear, jealousy, condemnation, discouragement, dissension.*

Satan will do all he can to distract you from *who you are* and *what you have* in Christ. The devil wants to undermine your faith, and rob you of your blessings.

Thus, Paul tells us, verse 12, <sup>6:12</sup> "**For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**" Never forget it's a spiritual battle!

We don't fight modern wars with swords and spears, and we don't fight spiritual battles with fleshy techniques. This is why we need spiritual weaponry!

And God gives us armor, <sup>6:13</sup> "**Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.** <sup>6:14</sup> **Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth...**"

Realize, while Paul wrote this letter he was chained to a Roman soldier. He had plenty of time to inspect his armor. And Paul uses the protective gear issued by the Roman Legion as analogous to our spiritual armor...

And the first item he mentions is **the belt of truth**. The ancients believed the loins, or abdominal area, was the seat of emotions. Today we talk about "**gut feelings...**"

And Satan loves to tinker with our emotions. If he can cause us to walk by feeling rather than faith he can sink us. Thus, Paul says strap on **the belt of truth**.

Just because you wake up one day and don't feel like a Christian doesn't mean you're not one. We need to bind our feelings in the truth of Scripture. Rest on His immutable Word - not your fickle, fleeting feelings. Don't let your *devotion* be determined by *emotion*.

And then, 6:14 “**put on the breastplate of righteousness...**” The ancients viewed the heart as the seat of the desires. And for Paul the heart needed to be protected. We need to nurture and cultivate godly desires.

Conversely, Satan is quick to inflame old desires. Be on guard. Remember you're not the same person you use to be - your deepest desires have changed.

Verse 15, 6:15 “**and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace...**” The Roman soldier wore a unique type of sandals. Their soles had stubs so the soldier wouldn't slip on rocky terrain.

At times we can get blindsided and knocked off balance. Someone attacks our faith with questions we can't answer. We become confused and are tempted to doubt. In such times we need to rest in God's peace.

**When there's confusion in your head, focus on the peace in your heart.** No one can deny the presence of God that you sense, and the miracle Christ has done in you. Let God's peace steady your faith, until you have the opportunity to seek out answers to your questions.

And verse 16, 6:16 “**above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.**” The Roman shield was big enough to protect a soldier from a shower of flaming arrows. He crawled under the shield and waited out the attack.

Realize, instead of single thrusts Satan often lobbs volleys of evil all at once. In those moments we need to hold up our faith, and trust the Lord no matter what. Rest in your faith until the attack has passed.

It's interesting the Roman shields were gang-able. They interlocked so multiple soldiers could join shields and create a blanket of protection. Likewise, our faith get's stronger when the faith of many come together.

6:17 “**And take the helmet of salvation...**” This fallen world spews negativity and cynicism that sours our outlook. This is why we need *mind protection* - a helmet! Safeguard your thoughts with God's good news.

A football player would never go into a game without a helmet, and we need to guard our perspective. Paul tells us in Colossians 3:2, [Colossians 3:2](#) “**Set your mind on**

things above, not on things on the earth." *Wear a helmet!*

And before we leave our armor - notice the one part of the body not covered? It's **the back**. There's nothing for our back - *and why?* God never wants us to retreat. **Stand** against the devil - don't run from him!

The French Foreign Legion has a motto, "If I falter push me on, if I stumble pick me up, if I retreat shoot me." Well said! **God has no armor for our backs!**

And we're given our offensive weapons in the next two verses. First, is [Ephesians 6:17](#) "The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." The Bible is sharp and powerful.

And it's [6:17](#) "**the sword of the Spirit.**" Under the Spirit's influence the Scriptures slice to the heart of the matter. They shred the lies of Satan and dissect our motives.

In 2 Samuel 23:10 one of David's mighty men, Eleazar, fought the Philistines, [2 Samuel 23:10](#) "until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword." His hand froze to the sword's handle. He couldn't put it down. *And this should be our attitude toward God's Word.*

Then verse 18, [Ephesians 6:18](#) "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints..."

Prayer is the heavy artillery. From behind enemy lines you can bomb the enemy's stronghold. You can blast away excuses, and breakdown a person's defenses before you ever move in to share the Gospel.

Paul encourages the Ephesians to pray, and while they're at it, he asks them to pray, [6:19](#) "for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, [6:20](#) for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak." Remember, Paul is *writing* in a rat-infested prison, but he's not *whining*. He sees his circumstances as an opportunity. If God has him in prison it's to share his faith. He asks them to pray not for *bail money*, but for *boldness* to witness!

Verse 21, [6:21](#) "But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; [6:22](#) whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts." Tychicus was the deliverer of Paul's letter. He would also update the church on Paul's condition.

The Apostle closes with a benediction, [6:23](#) "Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. [6:24](#) Grace be with all those who

love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.”