

Wednesday, August 25

The letter to the Ephesians clearly reiterates the powerful message of the gospel: we are “saved,” or made new in Jesus, by God’s grace through faith. Further, it clarifies the bold and exciting reality that through Christ all believers become one church family, with Jesus as the cornerstone. The beautiful metaphor of a congregation of believers from every background uniting to become a “temple” containing the Holy Spirit is an objective for every church.

Ephesians 2

- According to versus 13-18, what kind of peace does Jesus bring? What happens as a result?
- Reread verse 10. What do you think God has in mind for you to do next? Write a prayer asking for God’s wisdom and guidance in this.

Thursday, August 26

Paul gave practical instructions about what steps to take to develop spiritual maturity. He reminded the Ephesians that each of them had been equipped with special gifts. By using these gifts together, all would grow into a life worthy of their calling in Christ. The mark of maturity in Christ would be clearly revealed through their treatment of each other.

Ephesians 4

- In our quest toward spiritual maturity, what specifically does Paul say we are to put off? What are we to put on?
- In what area of your life do you still struggle with spiritual immaturity? What steps could you take to grow?

Friday, August 27

Not only should our actions honor God, but they should also be visible to others. Paul instructed believers to “submit to one another out of reverence to Christ.” Loving servant behavior toward each other in every setting—including the marriage relationship—shows spiritual maturity.

Ephesians 5

- In verse 4, what did Paul insist should replace any “obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse joking”? Challenge yourself to follow Paul’s instructions today. What blessings might come with this change of attitude and words?
- Paul equally called both husbands and wives to love and submit to one another. How can you show love and submission to your spouse or family members?

Saturday, August 28

Ephesians ends with a reminder that our “enemy” is not human, but exists in the spiritual realm. Believers are only able to resist the attacks of evil and prevail against them by putting on what Paul called “the full armor of God.” Only by constantly wearing this spiritual armor, plus continually praying, can we live God’s best plans for our lives triumphantly and without derailment.

Ephesians 6

- Make a list of each piece of the armor named in the text? What purpose does each serve?
- Do a spiritual self-inventory. Are you wearing every piece of God’s armor? What are you missing? What piece(s) do you need to put on firmly today?