

Friday, October 5: Read [*Ephesians 6*](#)

Chapter six continues with Christian household relationships starting with children and parents. Slaves and masters related to the first century era as would employees and employers relate to us today.

The last half of chapter six presents a strategy for believers to face spiritual opposition. Read carefully Paul's instructions there. He explains the demonic dynamics at work against God's people and then lays out, piece by piece, the protective armor we need to resist the enemy and ward off his temptations and attacks. Check yourself at this present moment. Are you relying on God's truth, righteousness and peace? Is your faith useful to shield your life? Does his salvation cover your mind, and can you wield his word like a sword? The application is found in verse 18 -- to look to the Holy Spirit in prayer on all occasions, applying God's armor (resources) to our lives and circumstances. The final effect will be the peace, love and grace of God (verses 23-24).

Notes:

Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), **Robert and Kailey Newkirk** (South Sudan), **Mike and Fran VanBruggen**, (Word of Life), **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Sue Saunders** (Bosnia), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (Ethnos360), **Brad and Christa Babjack** (University of West Virginia), **Salomon and Megan Guzman** (Tijuana), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Central Asia)

Thru the New!

(Reading through the New Testament in 2018)

- *Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.*
- *Read the chapters and underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advice or wisdom gleaned from your reading.*
- *Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.*
- *Think about what you're reading. Ask:*
 - 1. How does this apply to me?*
 - 2. Are there any temptations to avoid, sins to confess, commands to obey or promises to claim?*
 - 3. What insight do I gain on God, myself, others, or life?*
- *Ask God to show you any specific action you need to take as you read.*

Monday, October 1 Read [*Ephesians 1-2*](#)

Ephesians is the first of several letters Paul wrote to Christians while he was in prison in Rome. It can be divided into three sections, sit - walk - stand. As believers, we are seated with Christ in the heavenly realm, we are to walk out on faith in service to others and we are to stand against the opposition of the devil.

Notice the phrase "in Christ" or "in him" starting in chapter one. This reminds us of our new identity as Christians. Walk through Paul's prayer in chapter one, verses 15-21 and pray it back for yourself. Chapter two presents a familiar presentation of the dynamics of the salvation we've received through faith. And now we Gentiles are on equal footing with God's people, the Jews.

Notes:

Pray for: ---My relationship with God

---My life roles

---My personal needs/weak areas

---My goals and objectives.

Tuesday, October 2: Read [*Ephesians 3*](#)

Chapter three unravels a “mystery” now revealed, the church of Jesus Christ. God has given the world universal access to himself through Jesus. All can now know and serve him thanks to what Christ has accomplished.

A second prayer of Paul (verses 14-21) warrants our attention. Again a good exercise for us is to re-pray the prayer, personalizing it to our own life situation., Read it carefully and pray for yourself to know the deep, abiding love of God through Jesus Christ. That truth alone can change your life!

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday October 3: Read [*Ephesians 4*](#)

Chapters four and five focus on the practical outworking of our faith in the context of relationships in the church. Check yourself as you read. How well do you connect with other believers God has brought into your life? Is our church functioning as a unit, a body, building each other up in our faith? Pay attention to the one another phrases, they represent our mutual responsibilities as part of the church. Note also the admonitions in chapter four to put away old sinful practices and to think and speak and act in new, godly ways that edify others and honor God.

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

1. Leadership: Pray for God’s grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David’s ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn in her work at BGCC. Pray for the church council and the various ministry team leaders.
2. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
3. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
4. Discipleship: Ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries at BGCC. Pray for our small group ministry.
5. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ. Ask God to embolden our people to intentionally reach out to others.
6. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for our upcoming 150th anniversary celebration. Ask God to use our church anniversary as a testimony to Branch County. Pray for God’s clear leading in our upcoming 2020 plan.

Thursday, October 4: Read [*Ephesians 5*](#)

Chapter five continues with admonitions to put away “darkness” (dark, sinful practices) and to live as “children of the light”. A new way of life (light), a life of love is possible now due to the presence of the Holy Spirit within. Verses 18-20 really give us the key to living for God -- the filling of Holy Spirit. His presence and power can easily transform our actions and our relationships according to God’s will. One of the first places this can be experienced is at home, specifically in marriage. Verses 21-33 outline what this can look like for Christian husbands and wives.

Notes:

Thursday Pray for “My World”

(Write down names as God brings people to mind.)

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at Work • Others God brings into my life. Take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help. Who can you invite to church this Sunday?
- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County. Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation.
- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.