

IMMEASURABLY MORE ..

[Part 2]

learning from the letter to the Ephesians

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! [Eph.3.20f]

The letter to the Ephesians sets out for us ‘the unsearchable riches of Christ’ (Eph.3.8), and assures us that God is ‘able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine’ (Eph.3.20): this set of studies is intended to help us all enter into and enjoy that ‘immeasurably more’.

You can find the background to this series [here](#).

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No pressure!

There are 7 [sets of] questions in each study to provide the option, which some find useful, of the material being used as a daily study.

Priorities!

You’ll know your own group, so use what you’ll find most helpful. As always there will be benefit in looking at all the questions! Given how pivotal to the whole passage **Q4**, is try and ensure that this is not one of the ones omitted!

Prayer!

Do try also to make a point in your Community Group of leaving time for praying together!

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10. Ephesians 6.10-24 [w/b Sunday 25th June]

“be strong in the Lord”

There's a remarkable balance about this letter! The first 3 chapters spell out the truths about us as believers, the last 3 chapters work out what that now means for the living of our lives as such: be who and what you are.

Now as he closes the emphases in what Paul writes mirror in many ways the way he began: having spoken at the start about the 'the working of His mighty strength' (Eph.1.19), he uses exactly the same terminology in speaking now about being strong in the Lord and 'in His mighty power' (Eph.6.10). And in similar fashion his final greeting in 6.23f picks up his initial greeting in 1.2 as a mirror-image.

1. **Read Ephesians 6.10-24.** The passage is well known, and the illustration of the believer's 'armour' is one about which countless books have been written.

In what sense(s) have you found that following Jesus is a battle?

2. **Read Ephesians 6.10-12.** We soon learn as Christians that there are 3 major 'fronts' where we face a challenge to the new life we have in Christ – the world, the 'flesh', and the devil.

Why is it so important to recognize that it's not ultimately against flesh and blood that we struggle?

How do the extensive descriptions used by Paul here help us see what we're up against in this spiritual battle?

3. Read Ephesians 6.10-14a. It's clear from the repetition of the exhortation to 'stand' that Paul recognizes a major 'defensive' dimension to the battle we fight.

What do you think Paul means by 'the evil day'?

Have you experienced such an 'evil day', and how did you 'stand' in the face of it?

4. Read Ephesians 6.14-18. Paul may well have been prompted and helped to build up this illustration by observing a Roman soldier stationed to guard him!

What are the seven bits of 'armour' to which Paul alludes?

Which bits of 'armour' are defensive?

In relation to each bit of 'armour' what does putting that bit of 'armour' on involve?

5. Read Ephesians 6.17-18. The reference to the 'sword of the Spirit' and our 'praying in the Spirit' suggest a more 'offensive' type of 'armour' or 'weaponry'.

What does Paul mean by referring to the Word of God as 'the sword of the Spirit'?

Why is prayer such a vital part of the believer's 'armour' and 'weaponry' – rather than just a useful devotional exercise?

6. Read Ephesians 6.18-20. Paul makes the general exhortation to 'pray in the Spirit' more specific by asking that they pray for him.

What two things in particular does Paul ask the believers at Ephesus to pray for in respect to himself?

Make it a point of specific prayer week by week to pray for your pastor and preacher in terms of vv.19-20.

7. Read Ephesians 6.21-24. The relational bonds between Paul and the believers at Ephesus were clearly strong – and such bonds between believers also helped develop in them all the strength for battle which Paul was so keen to secure!

In what ways is it clear that the relational bonds between Paul and the believers at Ephesus were strong?

From what you read here, how do you think these bonds were fostered and developed?

What lessons might we be learning from this?