

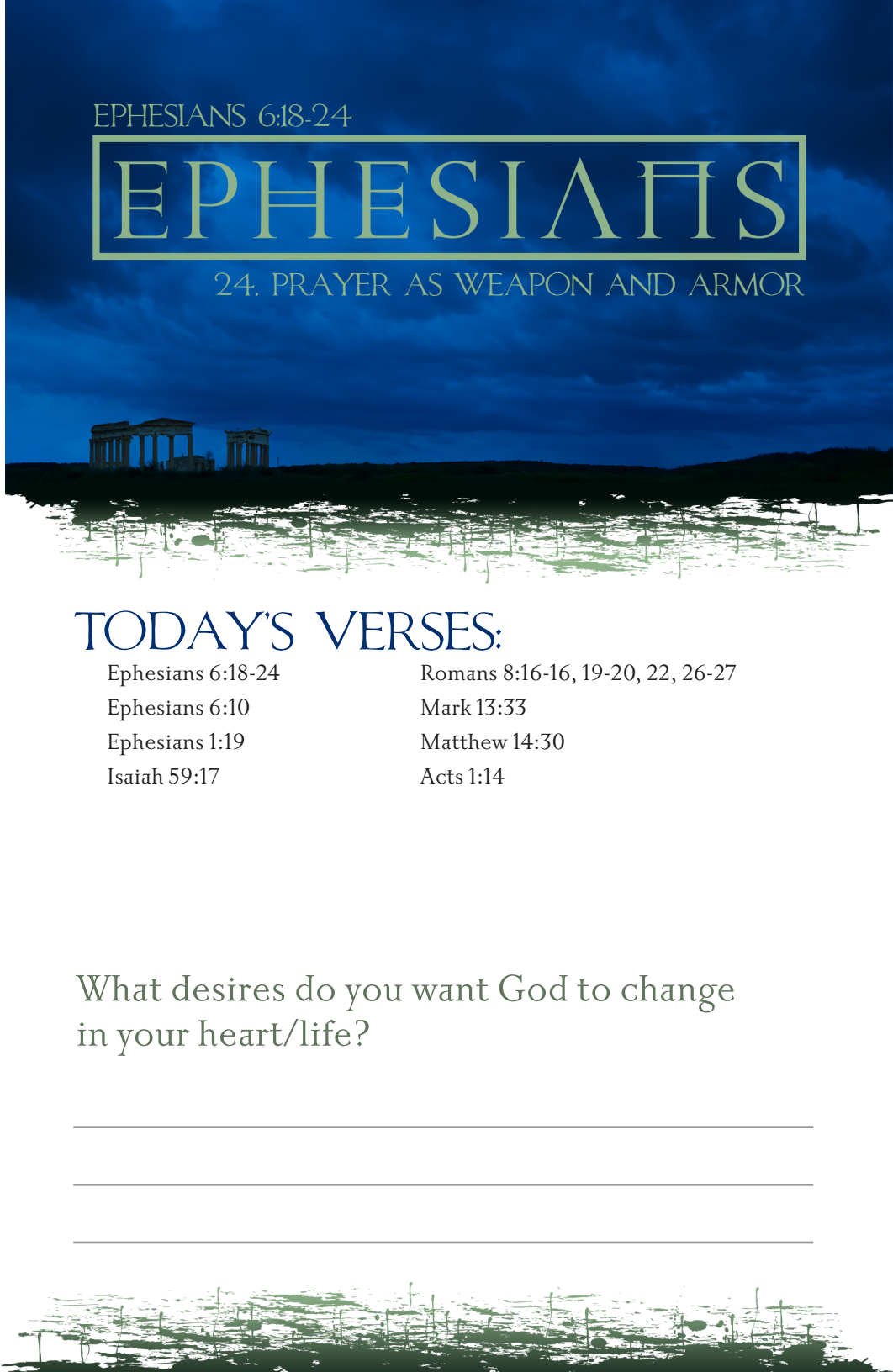
June 30, 2024

MY NOTES:

EPHESIANS 6:18-24

EPHESIANS

24. PRAYER AS WEAPON AND ARMOR



TODAY'S VERSES:

Ephesians 6:18-24

Romans 8:16-16, 19-20, 22, 26-27

Ephesians 6:10

Mark 13:33

Ephesians 1:19

Matthew 14:30

Isaiah 59:17

Acts 1:14

What desires do you want God to change
in your heart/life?

EPHESIANS

24. PRAYER AS WEAPON AND ARMOR EPHESIANS 6:18-24

Paul ends all his talk about the armor of God by focusing us on prayer. He ends with “finally” as he winds up his letter and reminds us of how to walk in God’s strength. This is a reminder that our strength comes from God, as He is able to do more than we could ever ask or imagine. The armor we wear is God’s armor and *not* our own.

- ♦ **Why is it important to remember it is not our strength but God’s that we walk/live in?**
- ♦ **How has relying on your own strength failed you?**
- ♦ **Since last week, do you have any other thoughts about God’s armor?**

We do not pray to get things *from* God, but to grow in relationship. Paul says that since there is a war, pray...pray at all times with perseverance and supplication.

1) We are to **pray “in the Spirit.”** The Spirit helps us as we pray and even intercedes for us. The Greek word for “pray in” means “by means of,” or “with the help of.” Praying in the Spirit does not refer simply to the words we are saying, but it refers to *how* we are praying; God—the Holy Spirit—is in us and is actively at work.

- ♦ **What comes to mind when you hear “pray in the Spirit?”**
- ♦ **Where do you see evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in you? In others?**

Praying *with* or *in* the Spirit means we are living a new life.

2) Paul says to **“keep alert.”** Paul wants us to be attentive to what needs prayer and how God wants us to pray. Paul tells us life is an ongoing battle and can be difficult. Our own awareness of our needs drives us to engage with God through prayer. By trusting in the Gospel we can stand firm.

- ♦ **How are you currently in need? When is the last time you talked to God about that very need?**
- ♦ **What things does God’s Spirit tend to bring to your mind when praying?**

DISCUSSION NOTES

3) We pray **with all perseverance** – this means to “always keep on praying.” How do we persevere in prayer? How are we to be constant? We remember that we come to God as children who have been adopted by a father; that is our position.

- ♦ **How does understanding your position before God relate to how/when you pray?**

Being a Christian means that we are not trying or hoping that someday God will bless us with being His children; it means we *are* His children. We pray as part of His family and therefore have deep assurance.

4) We pray **“making supplication for all the saints”**- this comes back to family. Because we are now family, prayer is communal. Paul is saying that we need relationships that are intimate enough that friends hear you groan before God. Prayer is not just between us and God; we are also called to pray on behalf of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

5) Paul says *Eph 6:19-20 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*

This prayer is what we pray for one another. **“Whenever we speak, may we be given words that fearlessly make known the gospel.”**

- ♦ **Where do those around you need prayer to boldly express the Gospel to others?**
- ♦ **Pray for one another to be given the words to speak the message of the Gospel.**

Our identity comes from what the most important person in our life thinks about us. Is that God? If it is, we will be free and long to share that freedom with others.

“Father, there is nothing I can do today that would make you love me more; nothing I did yesterday makes you love me less. You are all I need for everlasting joy. Teach me to be to others as you have been to me, and have your Spirit remind me that everything the Gospel tells me about your intentions are true.”

- ♦ **What are some of the most important ideas you have taken from the book of Ephesians?**