

OHBC Six-Day Bible Study
Ephesians 6
Standing Firm in the Lord

Theme for the Week

Ephesians 6 brings Paul's letter from the ordinary responsibilities of home and work to the unseen struggle faced by every believer. These subjects belong together. The gospel that reconciles us to God also shapes how we treat the people nearest to us. And the Lord who calls us to obey supplies the strength we need to stand firm when evil opposes us.

The chapter begins with children and parents, then addresses servants and masters in the first-century household. Children are called to obey their parents in the Lord, while fathers are warned against provoking their children and are charged to raise them in the Lord's instruction. Paul tells bondservants to serve sincerely, as serving Christ, and tells masters to stop threatening, remembering that they and their servants answer to the same Master in heaven. As we consider our responsibilities today, we must attend carefully to those original relationships. The passage does not excuse mistreatment or turn ancient slavery into a model for modern work. It teaches that no position of authority places a person beyond the Lord's judgment.

Paul then commands believers to be strong **in the Lord** and to put on the whole armor of God. The Christian life involves a real spiritual struggle, but our hope rests in God's strength rather than our own courage. Truth, righteousness, the readiness given by the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God are His provisions for His people. Prayer belongs throughout this struggle. Paul even asks the church to pray that he will proclaim the gospel boldly while he is in chains.

As you study this week, ask the Lord to make you faithful in your home and responsibilities, watchful against the devil's schemes, and persistent in prayer. Remember that the risen Christ has already secured our salvation. We stand in the strength of the Savior who loved His church and gave Himself for her.

Monday — Children, Obey in the Lord

Reading: Ephesians 6:1–3

Focus Verse:

Gather ~ Praise ~ Pray ~ Grow ~ Serve

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” — Ephesians 6:1 (ESV)

Study Question:

What command does Paul give children, and how does he connect it to the commandment to honor father and mother?

Personal Application:

If you are a young person living under your parents' care, identify one way to obey them promptly and respectfully today. At any age, consider how you can honor your parents in a way that is faithful to the Lord and suited to your circumstances.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through Ephesians 6:1–3

ex. Father, teach me to honor my parents and to obey you in the relationships you have given me. Give me a willing heart that seeks to do what is right in the Lord. Amen.

Tuesday — Parents, Raise Children in the Lord

Reading: Ephesians 6:4

Focus Verse:

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” — Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)

Study Question:

What does Paul forbid fathers to do, and why does he command them to do what he does instead?

Personal Application:

If you care for children, consider whether your words and correction help them understand the Lord's ways or leave them needlessly discouraged. Seek one opportunity to teach, encourage, or listen with patience. If you do not have children in your care, pray for the families in your church and encourage a parent this week.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through Ephesians 6:4.

ex. Lord, give parents patience and wisdom. Keep us from words and actions that provoke children, and help us teach them your ways with love and faithfulness. Amen.

Wednesday — Serve with Sincerity

Reading: Ephesians 6:5–8

Focus Verse:

“Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart” — Ephesians 6:5-6 (ESV)

Study Question: How does Paul say bondservants should not serve, and what reason does he give for their sincere service?

Personal Application: In your work, schoolwork, chores, or service to others, consider whether your effort changes when no one is watching. Choose one responsibility to carry out sincerely today as an act of service to Christ. Remember that this instruction never requires you to cooperate with sin or accept abuse.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through Ephesians 6:5–8

ex. Lord Jesus, you see the work I do when no one else notices. Free me from serving only to gain approval, and help me carry out my responsibilities sincerely for you. Amen.

Thursday — Authority Under God's Authority

Reading: Ephesians 6:9

Focus Verse:

“and there is no partiality with him.” — Ephesians 6:9 (ESV)

Study Question:

What does Paul command masters to stop doing, and what truth about their Master in heaven should govern their conduct?

Personal Application:

If you supervise, teach, lead, or care for anyone, examine how you use your influence. Reject threats, favoritism, and harshness. Treat the people entrusted to you with fairness and dignity, remembering that you answer to the Lord.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through Ephesians 6:9

ex. *Master in heaven, remind me that you show no partiality. Guard me from using authority harshly, and teach me to treat every person under my care with dignity and fairness. Amen.*

Friday — Put on the Whole Armor of God

Reading: Ephesians 6:10–17

Focus Verse:

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.” —

Ephesians 6:11 (ESV)

Study Question:

According to verses 10–17, where does the believer's strength come from, and what does God provide so that his people can stand?

Personal Application:

When you face temptation, fear, or discouragement, do not depend on willpower alone. Bring God's truth to mind, trust his promises, and use his word as you resist sin. Ask him for strength to stand faithfully today.

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through Ephesians 6:13-14

ex. *Father, strengthen me in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Help me hold fast to your truth, trust your promises, and stand firm against the devil's schemes with the armor you provide. Amen.*

Saturday — Pray and Speak the Gospel Boldly

Reading: Ephesians 6:18–24

Focus Verse:

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints” — Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Study Question:

For whom does Paul tell believers to pray, and what does he specifically ask them to pray for him in verses 19–20?

Personal Application:

Pray today for the believers in your church, the pastors of your church, and for those who proclaim the gospel. Ask the Lord to give you an opportunity and courage to explain the good news clearly to someone who needs to hear it. Let Paul's closing words of peace, love, faith, and grace shape how you encourage a fellow believer.

Gather ~ Praise ~ Pray ~ Grow ~ Serve

Scriptural Prayer:

Today, pray through Ephesians 6:18–24

ex. Father, help me pray faithfully for all the saints. Give those who proclaim your word clear speech and boldness, and give me courage to make the gospel known. Fill your church with peace, love, faith, and grace in Christ. Amen.

Closing Thought

Ephesians 6 shows us that faithfulness to Christ reaches into daily life. The Lord cares about how children respond to parents, how parents teach their children, how people carry out their responsibilities, and how those with authority treat others. None of these relationships is hidden from him. We should therefore examine our own conduct before we focus on someone else's failures. Where we have been disobedient, harsh, insincere, or unfair, we must confess our sin and turn to Jesus.

Paul's words to servants and masters also remind us that earthly status is never the measure of a person's worth before God. The same Lord sees the one who serves and the one who commands. He shows no partiality. Those with power must not use this passage to demand quiet compliance from people they mistreat. All of us should use whatever responsibility we have to serve others with justice, sincerity, and care.

The call to stand firm does not mean that Christians are strong by nature. Paul says, “*be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might*” (Ephesians 6:10, ESV). Our enemy is real, and we should take his schemes seriously. Still, we need not live in panic. God has given his people what they need to stand: His truth, His righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and His word. We put these gifts to use as we trust Him and obey Him.

Prayer is part of this daily dependence. Paul urges the church to pray at all times and for all the saints. He asked believers to pray for him. He wanted words to speak and boldness to make the gospel known, even as a prisoner. If Paul needed the prayers of the church, we should gladly pray for our pastors, missionaries, neighbors, and one another. We should also ask the Lord to open our own mouths to tell others about Jesus.

At the end of the letter, Paul speaks of peace, love with faith, and grace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the fitting end to a letter that has shown us God's saving kindness in Jesus. We do not stand firm in order to earn his grace. We stand because Jesus has rescued us by grace and brought us near to God. Let us therefore serve faithfully in our homes and daily duties, resist evil with what God has provided, and pray for the gospel to go forward with courage and clarity.