

# Ephesians Series – Autumn 2020 Including Life Group Leaders Brief

Taken from the book **Ephesians: How Jesus creates a New People in a New World** by Brad Wilson

## **'How Jesus creates a new people in a new world'**

A major series preaching through this book, with each message formed of three parts:

- Head – Renewal of our minds by the knowledge of God
- Heart – Restoration of our souls by the application of this truth
- Hands – Transformation of our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit

There are eight parts (weeks) each has a reading(s) a brief synopsis and some suggested questions.

Please note that the first three parts all have two sections, the remaining parts one section each.

Suggested questions for life groups have been **highlighted**.

## Part 8 - A church at war (6:10-23)

### Head

Paul is reminding the church we have a mission, it's dangerous, but we have everything we need.

There is a realm in the unseen that is motivated, personal, evil, and set on the destruction of the joy of God's Church, and the dulling of the Church's mission. It is not sociological, psychological, or physical, but spiritual.

Paul ends Ephesians with an appeal to embrace this battle, but more importantly, to remember the power of God, and that the victory of Jesus is cosmic in nature, comprehensive in scope and catastrophic to all evil. Jesus has won and given that victory to the church as our inheritance.

This passage is not about defense from the world, but about a confident and gracious offensive into the world, knowing we are armed with the power to raise souls from the dead.

With spiritual warfare there are two extremes: people who say "There is no such thing as evil spiritual forces" and others who say "The devil is behind everything". Ignoring or refusing to see the power of darkness in our world, our communities, and our personal lives, limits our readiness. On the other hand, when the devil is the reason for every difficult circumstance, we fail to see the sovereign grace of God even in suffering.

### Heart

The spiritual forces of evil will not stop until you are bathed in lies, until you're so busy, distracted by comfort, or disillusioned by circumstances you will not utter a word of worship to God nor a word of hope to those around you.

**What are the lies that keep us from Jesus, Joy and the mission of God? How can we deal with them?**

### Hands

The key to this passage is v18-20. They describe the purpose of the battle, and the battlefield itself. They are about the proclamation of the greatest hope with extraordinary boldness.

**What kind of life would require ongoing prayer for endurance and what would happen if we boldly proclaimed the mystery of the gospel?  
How is the Holy Spirit calling you to respond?**

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#### Final word

Ephesians is our letter, this is our moment of the story. This is who we are. We are the Church, created by the the gospel of Jesus for the sake of the gospel of Jesus. He's given us every spiritual blessing, and all the power to embody the mission He's given us. Let's not take this letter merely as information to add to our mental filing cabinet, but as the words of God that transform us and our towns and villages. Expand your imagination for what God might do in you and through you. He can do more than you could ever imagine because He has already has, when He raised you from the dead.