

SERIES OVERVIEW

When you take the time to study the book of Ephesians, you will see that it is full of rich truth that points to the nature and character of God. Throughout this series, we are going to take a closer look at several of the aspects of God's character, and as we do, you'll see how unbelievable God is. What He has done for us and what He continues to do for us to this day is absolutely mind boggling. Thankfully, Paul does an incredible job explaining to us how we can grow in trust, faith, and belief in a God who is truly unbelievable.

SERIES VERSES

Ephesians 1:1-7;

1:13-14; 2:1-10; 3:14-21;

4:1-6; 4:30-32; 5:15-17;

5:18-21; 6:5-9; 6:10-18

PART 1: You Talking About Me? Ephesians 1:1-7

OVERVIEW	NOTES
If you would like to know what the real God looks like, the God who is great and glorious, who is magnificent and majestic, who is supreme and sovereign, you need to look no further than a letter that was written two thousand years ago by a man named Paul who had met this God personally on the Damascus Road. When you read who he says this God is and what this God has done, and what this God is doing and wants to do, the only word you'll be thinking is, "unbelievable." It may sound contradictory, but we really do believe in a God who is unbelievable. And in the book of Ephesians, Paul tells us that what God has done for his people is unbelievable and what God wants to do through His people is unbelievable.	
KEY POINTS	
1. I Am Who God Says I Am Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians by saying, "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 1:1). Do you know what he called everyone in the church? He called them saints. From this description, you get the idea they were a cut above you and me. But no, they had the same kind of people in their church that we have in our churches today – people who struggled with anger, lust, jealousy, bitterness gossip, and greed. Yet Paul calls them saints. His point in doing so is that he is talking to ordinary believers like you and me. There is no special class of Christians who are saints. Every believer is a saint and every saint is a believer, because that's what God says we are.	
2. I Have What God Says I Have We live in a world that likes to measure others by what they have. We compare what we have to what other people have – the car they drive, the clothes they wear, the house they live in. When you think it is unbelievable that you are who God says you are, you are going to find it even more believable that you have what God says you have, which is this: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).	
There are two words to pay attention to in this verse. That is the word "has" and the word "every." We are not told that one day God will give us every spiritual blessing. We are not told that God has given us some spiritual blessings. We are told plainly that God has already given us every spiritual blessing. In other words, God has already given us all that we need to be in Him, and He has already given us all that we need to do for Him.	
3. I Belong Where God Says I Belong I know it is unbelievable, but in Jesus, you are who He says you are – a saint. In Jesus, you have what He says you have – every spiritual blessing that God can give. And finally, in Jesus, you belong where God says you belong – as a perfect child in His perfect family.	

PART 1: You Talking About Me? Ephesians 1:1-7

Because of Jesus, God has accepted us. It's important that you understand what that means. We can't do anything so bad that it would make God love us less, and we can't do anything so good that it would make God love us more. Because of Jesus, God has accepted us before we even accepted Him. He has accepted us for who we are, but then changes us into what we need to be.	NOTES	
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER		
1. What spiritual blessings has God gifted you with that you have yet to thank Him for?		
2. Do you struggle more with thinking God loves you less when yo God loves you more when you do the right thing?	ou mess up, or thinking	
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PART 2: The Defining Moment Ephesians 1:13-14

OVERVIEW	NOTES
Psychologists refer to them as "defining moments," those events in your life that shape the person you have become. We all have them. But there is no defining moment like the moment when someone accepts Jesus and becomes a follower of Christ. So in this message, we are going to study all that happens at the defining moment when someone realizes they need a savior, that Jesus is that savior, and they trust Jesus as their savior.	
KEY POINTS	
1. We Believe in the Grace of God As Paul is writing to the Ephesians, he is taking these believers back to that moment in time that they made the momentous decision to turn from death to life, and from darkness to light, by putting their faith and trust in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, as their Savior.	
This decision to surrender their lives to Christ was a two-step process. First, they had to hear the gospel. And then one they heard it, they had to accept it as truth. They needed to come to the realization that the gospel is real. It's not a fairytale. It's not a myth. So the defining moment happens not just by hearing about the grace of God, but also believing in the grace of God, which ultimately brings salvation.	
2.We Receive the Guarantee of God From there, far more happens at that defining moment when we trust Christ than just salvation. Throughout the history of humanity, we have always wanted assurances. We have always wanted guarantees, because you can't always trust other people. People don't always keep their promises, and people lie. So we demand oaths, contracts, warranties, anything that will guarantee that what we are promised to get, we will get.	
Thankfully, God gives those of us who place our faith in Christ the greatest guarantee of all that our faith will be rewarded with everything that God has promised, and that is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God's good housekeeping seal of approval that we belong to Him, He belongs to us, and what He has is ours. The joy, the peace, the love that we experience here is just a down payment on what we will experience for all eternity. When you believe in the grace of God, you receive the guarantee of God.	
3. We Achieve the Glory of God The question now is not how we have become a part of God's family, but why? Why did God do this for us? It is the same reason God does everything else, to the praise of His glory. The plan was always around the grace of God. The purpose was always for the glory of God. Everything that God does is only secondarily for our good. It is always primarily for His glory. That is why Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit has come to us, not just to give us a guarantee that God will do for us what He has promised, but He	

has actually come to us for the glory of the one who made the promise.

PART 2: The Defining Moment

Ephesians 1:13-14

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. How have you seen God glorified through your life recently?
- 2. Think about your own journey to following Christ. Did it take a while for you to believe in His truth after you heard it, or did hearing and believing happen around the same time?

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PART 3: Endgame Ephesians 2:1-10

OVERVIEW	NOTES
Since the beginning of time, God has had an agenda for the human race. He has an endgame for all of us. In fact, you could really give the Bible a one-word title and just call it "endgame", but of course even the word "endgame" begs a beginning and a middle, because every story has those three components – a beginning, a middle and an end. The story of the Bible and in fact God's story for you has the same three components.	
KEY POINTS	
1. People Are Hopefully Lost Paul was not into political correctness, and sometimes maybe his bedside manner wasn't too great, because he gets right to the heart of the matter. He doesn't mince words. He doesn't pull punches as he is describing how every one of us is born and what every one of us is really like until we are born again. In other words, he is describing everyone who is without Jesus. His first statement is dogmatically and devastatingly direct: "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins" (Ephesians 2:1).	
We are not just spiritually deficient, or spiritually debilitated, or just spiritually disabled. We are spiritually dead. We are more than just physical bodies; we are spirits. We have a soul. We may be visibly alive on the outside, but without Jesus, we are virtually dead on the inside. That is why apart from the power of God, people can look at the Bible, but they can't see its truth. People can listen to the gospel, but they can't hear its truth. People without God are hopelessly lost. They are like a blind man in a dark room, looking for a black cat that isn't there.	
2. God is Graciously Love There are two conditions of the human spirit that are crush and devastating. One is when you feel absolutely helpless. But what's even worse than being helpless is being hopeless, to be convinced that there is no light at the end of the tunnel, the problem is unsolvable, the question is unanswerable. What Paul describes in Ephesians 2:1 is the human race apart from God. We are helpless and we are hopeless.	
However, after making this statement, Paul utters two simple words to take you from the valley of despair to the mountaintop of delight. They are words that guarantee help for the helpless and hope for the hopeless: "But God" (Ephesians 2:4). People are hopelessly lost, but God is graciously love.	
3. We Experience An Eternal Transformation Because Jesus Christ is universally Lord, that means he is Lord over everything and everyone. That means He is Lord over life and death, and if He is Lord over life and death, He is the only one who can give life to	

PART 3: Endgame Ephesians 2:1-10

death. Why? Because he is the only one who rose from the dead. Jesus lives physically so I can live spiritually in him. Because Jesus lives physically, I can live personally for him. Because Jesus lives physically, I can live	NOTES
eternally with him, but it is only with Jesus.	
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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	
 Think about a time where you felt helpless or hopeless. Did yo circumstances, or did you try to find help or hope from other source 	
2. When was the last time God took you from the valley of despain of delight?	r to the mountaintop
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PART 4: Direct Connect

Ephesians 3:14-21

OVERVIEW	NOTES
You can tell a lot about your spiritual maturity with God by what you pray for and how you pray for it. But let's be honest, we don't always handle prayer the right way. In fact, there are two problems when it comes to prayer: we don't know how to pray, and we don't know what to pray for. At times our prayers are like throwing stuff against the wall and hoping it sticks. We are going to learn today that the greatest prayer you will ever pray and the prayer that you will know always makes a direct connect with God is the prayer that comes from God. God always answers every prayer that is according to His will, and any prayer that God tells you to pray reflects His will. We don't always get what we pray for, but we always get what God wants us to pray for. From Ephesians 3, we get a one size fits all prayer that you can pray for anybody, anywhere, anytime, under any circumstances. Once you read it, you'll realize you can't pray a better prayer than this one.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Strengthen Me Through Your Spirit Paul begins his prayer in a way that we rarely (if ever) begin ours. Usually when we pray, we are asking God to do something for us (heal us, bless us, provide for us, take care of us), but Paul doesn't ask God to do something for him. He asks God to do something in him. He asks God to strengthen him through His Spirit. Paul's first prayer was not for health or wealth. It was for inner strength and	
power. It is not coincidental that was the first thing he prays. Do you know why? Because unless you are daily, continuously strengthen by the Holy Spirit, you cannot walk with God, work for God, witness for or even worship God the way you should. You see, God doesn't need our power to live for Him, because we don't have any. We need His power to live through us.	
2. Load Me With Your Love When you are controlled by the Spirit of God you will be consumed with the love of God. Paul uses both an agricultural term and an architectural term to illustrate how much the love of God should consume us. We are to be "rooted and grounded in love." A root is what gives a tree strength. Our lives are to send roots down deep and wide into the soil of God's love. The	
word "grounded" refers to the foundation of a building. A foundation gives a building stability. The foundation of everything we do and everything we say is to be love. Any architect will tell you that the higher a building that you want to build the deeper the foundation you have to lay. The point is the deeper you go to your love for God the higher you will go for the glory	
of God. Loving God gives you the strength to deal with difficult people. Loving God gives you the stability to weather difficult problems.	

PART 4: Direct Connect

Ephesians 3:14-21

3. Fill Me With Your Fullness Here is the truth. You are either full of self or you are full of God. You can't be half full of God and half full of self, because God doesn't share space with anybody. One of the things we should pray for ourselves every day is that we are empty of self and full of God. I want to be so full of God that people see in me the love of God, that people hear from me the voice of God, and people feel from me the power of God.	NOTES
4. Persuade Me Of Your Power How Paul closes will determine whether or not we even bother to pray. You see, too often, when we pray we focus on our problems instead of God's power. When you think about what to pray, or how to pray, or when to pray, think about who you are praying to. Nothing reveals more about what you really believe about God than your prayers. With that in mind, Paul shows us how to end our prayers. We begin by praying to God for us, but we always end by giving praise to God from us. We not only can't ask God for more than He can do; you can't even think of something greater than what God can do. You may be thinking that I've prayed prayers that God didn't answer. However, don't forget God answers every prayer, but if your prayer was not answered, it is not because your prayer exceeded God's power, but because God's plan exceeded your prayer. You are praying to a God that has no limits of what He knows, where He is, and what He can do.	
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	
1. Do you start your prayers by asking God to work in your rath something for you?	ner than for Him to do
2. When was a time when you prayed for something, and you asked for, but instead God answered your prayer beyond your	
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PART 5: Keep It Together Ephesians 4:1-6

OVERVIEW	NOTES
One reason I am always concerned about the unity of our church or any church is because the devil is in every church. Another word for "devil" is "diabolos" which gives us the word "diabolic" and it literally means "to split". The devil is a splitter; a divider or a wedge driver. The first thing he ever did was to split Adam and Eve from God, which is still his number one goal and hobby which is to separate unbelievers from God and keep them separated and to separate us from each other. On the contrary, the very first thing Paul wants to do is to keep us together, but how do you do that? Because, we are different; we are diverse. How do you keep diversity and differences from leading to discord and division? I am going to tell you from experience. Nothing is more harmful to the cause of Christ, to the witness of the Gospel, and the influence of the church than a church divided. Thankfully, there is a way to keep it together, and here's how.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Walk Together You know one of the best ways to end an argument? It's to realize you don't have to have the last word. Paul doesn't command us to win arguments. Instead, He tells us to be patient, bearing with one another in love. There is a simple word for that, and it is called "tolerance." When we come to a place where our unity could be compromised, we can do one of two things. We can despise each other because of our differences, or we can love each other in spite of our differences. Here is the point that Paul is making. Humility is not something that is forced from the outside; it is something that flows from the inside. I will guarantee that in any church this is one hundred percent true one hundred percent of the time. If we will walk worthily of our calling and we will swallow our pride, be willing to be quiet when we want to speak up, and be patient and tolerant with different people, with different viewpoints that are not essential, the devil and every demon in hell can never destroy us.	
2. Work Together Every one of us individually is to make sure that every one of us stays together corporately. To be clear, that means that unity is everybody's job. Not everyone of us is called to preach. Not everyone of us is called to be a missionary. Not every one of us is called to serve in some full-time ministerial capacity, but every one of us is called full-time to maintain the full unity of the church.	
3. Witness Together If you are full of the Holy Spirit and I'm full of the Holy Spirit, we may disagree, but we will not divide. I've heard hundreds if not thousands of testimonies of how people came to Christ. They come to Christ under all kinds of conditions under all kinds of circumstances and in all kinds of ways, but there is always one common thread through every person's salvation and that is the Holy	

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Spirit. It is the same Spirit that convicts us that we are sinners, convinces us we need a savior, and converts us to salvation. It is the Holy Spirit that brings us together is the Holy Spirit that will bind us together. So it is important that we witness to others by the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit, because He is the common ground that will unify us in Christ.Spirit. It is the same Spirit that convicts us that we are sinners, convinces us we need a savior, and converts us to salvation. It is the Holy Spirit that brings us together is the Holy Spirit that will bind us together. So it is important that we witness to others by the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit, because He is the common ground that will unify us in Christ.	NOTES	
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER		
1. Has there been a time where you were more concerned with being right in an argument than being patient and showing love to the person you were speaking with? What would you do differently if you were put into that situation again?		
2. What is one thing you can do this week to establish or mochurch or community of believers?	aintain unity in your	
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PART 6: Debt Free

Ephesians 4:30-32

OVERVIEW	NOTES
Let's be honest. Forgiveness doesn't come naturally, and it very rarely comes easily. It may be because of what the word means. The word "forgiveness" literally means "to let go" or "to send away." It is a financial term that refers to the cancellation of a debt. When someone hurts you or does you wrong, they are in your debt. Forgiveness is your willingness on your own to simply write off cancel the debt. It is the willingness to simply say to a person who has done you wrong and really does owe you, "You don't owe me anymore." Sin is a debt that is owed. When you sin against someone you owe them. When they sin against you, they owe you. The only thing that pays the debt off is forgiveness, but when somebody is forgiven somebody has paid. Many of you need to become debt free today. If you will take three simple steps, you can become just that.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Release Bitterness Paul comes right out of the gate in our key passage without mincing words, cutting corners, or pulling punches. Once again, he is straight to the point. If you are ever going to be free and no longer a slave to the master of bitterness, no longer an inmate in the prison of bitterness, the first thing you have to do is release your bitterness.	
Now that may not seem very helpful at first. In fact, it may even make you angry. Paul is somewhat unsympathetic to your hurt, but he is actually doing us a favor. If you think about it, what other option do you have? His advice is straightforward. You have any bitter feelings toward anybody? Get rid of them. Are you still mad or ticked off at somebody because they really messed you over? Walk away from it. You still find yourself in your mind hanging people by their toenails in hot acid? Drop it and move on.	
2. Render Forgiveness Until you are free to forgive you won't forgive. When you release bitterness then you can move on to render forgiveness like Paul says, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other" (Ephesians 4:32).	
The word "compassionate" literally means "tenderhearted." You have one of two kinds of hearts. You either have a hard heart or a tender heart. You have a kind heart or an unkind heart. The reason why Paul says to be compassionate is because you cannot be kind and bitter at the same time. You cannot be tender hearted and bitter at the same time. I have never met a truly kind, truly tenderhearted, bitter person in my life. So, Paul is setting us up to get us to the next step of forgiveness.	
3. Reproduce Godliness The motivation for forgiveness is found in six words: "Just as God has forgiven you." God's forgiveness is both the model for and the motivation	

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Ephesians 4:30-32

of forgiveness. Do you know why you ought to forgive others? Because, God has forgiven you. Do you know the way you should forgive others? The way God has forgiven you.	NOTES	
Stop focusing on what others have done to you and start focusing on what God has done for you. The litmus test for whether or not you have really experienced the peace and forgiveness of God in your heart is the willingness you have to extend forgiveness to others from your heart. We are never more like God than when we forgive. When you release bitterness and render forgiveness, you are reproducing godliness.		
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER		
1. Is it easy or second nature for you to harbor bitterness towards someone who has done you wrong? If so, who is someone you feel bitter towards right now?		
2. If you were to have the mentality to forgive others the way Christ forgave you, who would you need to forgive that maybe you haven't forgiven yet?		
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PART 7: The Time Is Now

Ephesians 5:15-17

OVERVIEW	NOTES
There are only two dimensions where we can serve God: time and space. You live for God here and you live for God now. When you die, you go to a place where there no time and there is no space. That is why when it comes to our life, the time is always now. Our life is made up of time. When time is up, life is over. That is why the most important use of your time is spending most of your time on what is most important. Thankfully, God has not left us on our own to sort out how we ought to spend our time and how we ought to live our days on this earth. He has given us specific advice on the best way to use every day and get the best of every moment. You only have a certain amount of time and when time is up life is gone. So, how do we live so we understand that for us the time is now?	
KEY POINTS	
1. Be Careful In How You See Time Remember, life is time and time is life. No matter what circumstance you are in right now, you are living the time of your life. To drive this point home, Paul gives this great advice, "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise" (Ephesians 5:15).	
There are only two ways to spend time – wisely and unwisely. So, there are only two ways to live – wisely and unwisely. There are only two ways to spend time – carelessly or carefully. There are only two ways to live life – carefully or carelessly. So, how do you see time? All over the world on every continent, you can count on one person asking another person at some point in time this question every day, "What time is it?" If you are careful in how you see time and wise in how you spend time, you will understand that the time is always now.	
2. Be Mindful Of How You Seize Time Once you see time the way you ought to see time, you will seize time on a daily basis. We must be mindful in how we spend every day. The time we have today can only be used today. You know we talk about, "saving time," or "borrowing time." You can't do any of those things with time. When it comes to time, you can't borrow from Peter to pay Paul. Whatever time you use today is gone forever. The time you don't use today can't be carried over until tomorrow. That is why I want you to focus in on what Paul said we should do every day of our lives and that is, "Make the most of every opportunity" (Ephesians 5:16). When you make the most out of every opportunity, you are making the most of your time. When you seize opportunities, you seize the day.	
3. Be Purposeful In How You Spend Time In three words, Paul has told us what to do with every single day of our life if we want to live the time of our life and that is, "the Lord's will." The wise way to live life is inside of God's will and the foolish way to live life is	

outside of God's will. Now, this is a command; it is not a request. Whatever

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Ephesians 5:15-17

God commands you to do you can do, so the good news is you can know God's will for your life. If He wants us to know His will, then it stands to reason God wants to reveal His will to us! He doesn't play games with his will. He doesn't play hide and seek. He doesn't say, "Marco" and you say "Polo." God has a will for us to do; a plan for us to fulfill.	NOTES
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	
1. Would you say that you spend your time wisely or unwisely?	
2. When it comes to fulfilling God's will, do you seize every opportunior do you find yourself giving up or not trying when opportunities as	
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PART 8: Power Surge Ephesians 5:18-21

OVERVIEW	NOTES
What would happen if every day of our lives every Christian experienced a power surge? What might happen in the church and what might happen outside the church? I believe our problem is not a power surge; it is surge protectors. There are many things that keep up from really experiencing God's power. We are too busy. We are too uncommitted. We are too apathetic. We are too bothered if out of our comfort zone. More than anything else we need the one thing a daily basis that Paul talks about and it is, "We need a power surge of the Holy Spirit." Here is the good news. The Spirit-filled life is not for super-star Christians, pastors or seminary graduates; it is for everyone who claims to know the Lord Jesus Christ. In this passage, Paul tells us three simple things.	
KEY POINTS	
1. I Should Expect The Filling Of The Holy Spirit Keep one thing in mind. Every Christian is indwelled by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives in every Christian, but even though he is resident within all of us, he is not president over all of us. The Holy Spirit may be in your house, but he doesn't run your house. He may run your house, but he isn't supreme over your house. If he is not, you are living a disobedient life. Every day we must choose to be controlled by the Spirit and filled by the Spirit. You see, you don't choose for the Holy Spirit to live in you, but you do choose whether to be led by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit doesn't share a seat. He doesn't room with anybody. You can fill your heart up with anything you want to, but you cannot fill it with the Holy Spirit and something else. If you are not filled with the Holy Spirit, anything else that is filling your life will be unfulfilling. The only way to be fulfilled as a Christian is to be filled full of the Holy Spirit. We should expect the filling of the Spirit and seek the filling of the Spirit every moment of every day.	
2. I Can Experience The Filling Of The Holy Spirit Paul makes a strange comparison about the spirit-filled life. He said, "Do not get drunkbut be filled with the spirit." (Ephesians 5:18). Paul is obviously making a comparison between being drunk and being filled with the spirit, and upon reflection it is a very apt analogy. You will only be filled with the Holy Spirit if you submit to the power of the Holy Spirit, with as much passion and desire as a drunken person submits to the power of alcohol. Whether or not you have ever been drunk, I'm sure we have all seen a drunk. When you are under the influence of alcohol you are literally under the control of alcohol. When you are drunk with alcohol you do what that alcohol tells you to do. You say what that alcohol tells you to say. You behave the way that alcohol tells you to behave. In fact, you get to a point where you are no longer consuming the alcohol:	

the alcohol consumes you.

PART 8: Power Surge Ephesians 5:18-21

Think about it. How does a person get drunk? By drinking. How does that person stay drunk? They keep drinking. What he is saying is we ought to continuously submit to being filled with the Holy Spirit. We want to have a thirst for God's spirit to control us, to lead us, and to guide us.	NOTES	
3. I Will Express The Filling Of The Holy Spirit When the Holy Spirit is in complete control of all that is inside of you, you can't help but let it come out of you. So, the big question is, "How do I know if I am filled with the Holy Spirit?" "What are the marks of a spirit-filled life?" If someone is drunk, they don't have to tell you. If someone is filled with the Spirit, they don't have to tell you either. We have all met people who the moment you are in their presence you just knew they were filled with the Holy Spirit. You just knew they had a walk with God that was a cut above the ordinary Christian life. We all have the opportunity for that description to be true of us, if we will be submissive to and filled with the Holy Spirit.		
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER		
1. Do you surrender and submit to the Holy Spirit's influence in yo a houseguest you try to ignore?	our life, or is He more of	
2. Would other people describe you as someone who "you can ju Holy Spirit" after being around you?	st tell is filled with the	
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PART 9: Work Ethic

Ephesians 6:5-9

OVERVIEW	NOTES
Interestingly, work was not a human invention, it was actually God's idea from the beginning. The very first command that God ever gave a human being was to work. Adam and Eve had barely taken their first breath when God said to them, "Your job is to be fruitful, to multiply and you are to subdue the earth. You are to rule over it and make it productive." In fact, the very first time the word "work" is ever used in the Bible is used at the beginning of the biblical story, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15). Nobody is exempt if they are able from work. Even the Son of God came to do the work that God had given him to do. At the end of his life, Jesus said this, "I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do" (John 17:4). So it shouldn't surprise us that the Word of God has something to tell us about work and how we should work. With that in mind, Paul showed people then how to live within that economic system and gave principles that apply to us today for those of us who work.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Respond In A Godly Way It is very interesting to note that Paul is describing how every employee should work in any job, because we are actually not just working, but we are also worshipping and we are witnessing. You see, your work and how you do it is an act of worship to God, because you are really working for him. It is a witness to others who are watching how Christians perform. You see, wherever Christians go and whatever Christians do they are going and doing under the authority of and for the glory of God. We should remember when we work, we are under the eyes of God, we are to be doing the will of God, and always for the glory of God.	
2. Relate In A Gracious Way Paul says if you are a supervisor, you are to give those under you the same respect you want from them. You are to give them the same courtesy you want from them. You are to treat them exactly the way you want to be treated. The reason he gives would have changed the perspective of every boss and put fear and trembling in every supervisor's heart, because you know that God is also your master. He shows no favorites. To Him, the supervisor is not above the employee and the employee is not beneath the supervisor. They really are equal. There is no favoritism with your God. Why? Because all men are created equal. You will be held accountable as to how you supervised those reporting to you.	
3. Reward In A Generous Way Maybe you serve a mean, unfair boss, but if you will be the employee that God wants you to be, He will reward you. Maybe you do have to supervise lazy, shiftless workers, but if you will be gracious in the way you lead, God	

PART 9: Work Ethic

Ephesians 6:5-9

will reward you too. This is what everybody who works, whether you are in management or labor, needs to remember. Whether you supervise or you serve, whether you are the employer or the employee, we all are employed under the authority of Jesus. We all serve in our job for Jesus. We all supervise our workers for Jesus.	NOTES
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	
1. Do you work in a way that honors your Heavenly Father, or do y is just enough to get by?	ou work in a way that
2. If you are in a position of authority, do you treat others with the s and dignity you expect them to treat you with?	ame kindness, respect,
NOTES	

PART 10: The Art of War

Ephesians 6:10-18

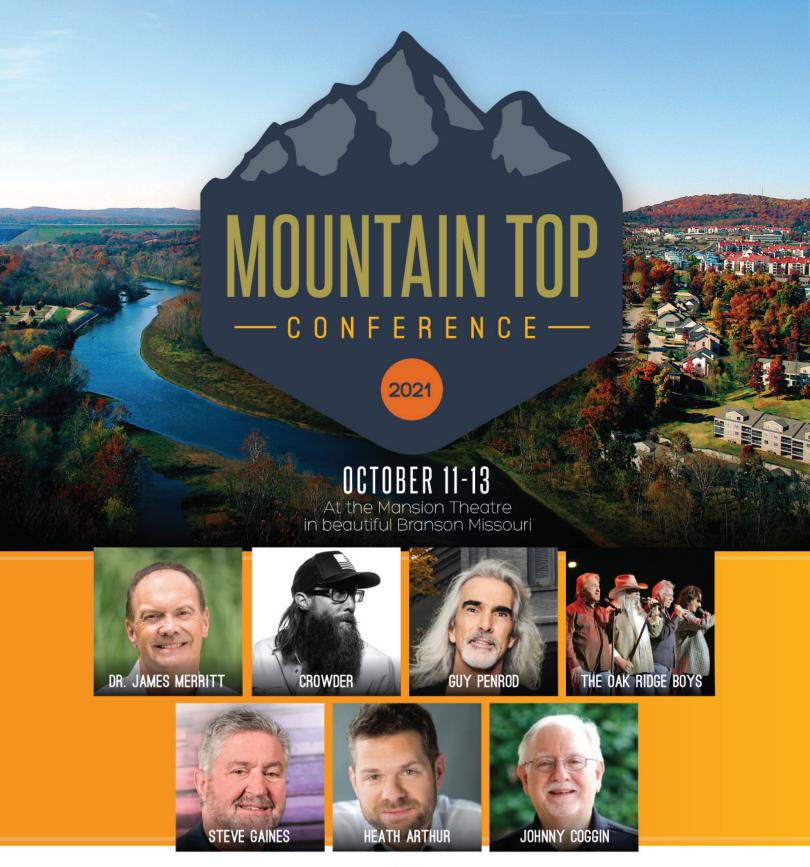
OVERVIEW	NOTES
Have you ever wondered why life is so hard? Why it is such a struggle? Why there is so much suffering, pain, and agony in the world? Have you ever wondered why it is sometimes so hard to maintain a good marriage? Raise good children? Please your boss? Get your act together financially? Have you ever wondered why somebody is always fighting somebody else? It is because there is a war going on. It is a war between two rulers: Jesus and Satan. There are two kingdoms light and darkness. There are two armies – Jesus' and the devil's. The reason why everywhere you look there are struggles, suffering, and strife. We have a theological term for that. It is called spiritual warfare. Spiritual warfare is the battle that is being fought in the invisible spiritual world that has visible physical consequences. Every problem that you have outside of you is really a problem either on the inside of you or the inside of the person causing you the problem. So in this war manual that Paul gives us, he is going to share with us how to win the war of daily life and how to handle the struggles, the suffering and the strive that comes in the battle of life and how to win that war on a daily basis.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Show Up To The War This war is going on right now – right here. You may not hear the bullets whizzing by your ear or the bombs exploding above your head, but the war is going on in your home. Marriages are falling apart and there is constant conflict between parents and children. Kids are wanting to rebel against the authority of their parents and parents refusing to set a good example for their children. It is also going on in our heads. That is why we lust, are bitter, jealous, and angry in our hearts. That is why we do things every day that we shouldn't do and don't do things we should do.	
The reason why so many followers of Jesus are losing their battle with the devil, with temptation, and with sin every day is because they are not even showing up for the war. It is time you finally realize what kind of war we are in and that the fact that the war is going on every day. Every Christ-follower is in this war and every follower of Christ is to fight. There are no deferments and no conscious objectors. The reason why many of you are falling so far short in the life that God wants you to have is because you are either AWAL, (you just deserted the war and you aren't trying to fight it) or you just surrendered.	
2. Suit Up For The War Any soldier knows when you go to war you better be loaded for bear. You had better be ready to fight. So we read, "Put on the full armor of God" (Ephesians 6:11). Every day you have got to put this armor on and keep your guard up. You can never relax. You can never let your guard down,	

because just at the time you do Satan will sucker-punch you when you

PART 10: The Art of War

Ephesians 6:10-18

least expect it. You've got to put on the full armor. You can't leave one piece of the armor off. You've got to put on the full armor of God or else you will have an Achilles heel and it is at that point that Satan will attack you and defeat you.	NOTES	
3. Stand Up In The War In this war, God wants you to be victorious. Jesus died on the cross and came back from the grave and sent his Holy Spirit to live in us, so that we would be victorious. The way you do that is going to surprise you. All God wants you to do every day is just stand. That word "stand" is a military term and it literally means "hold the line." You don't retreat. You don't run and you never surrender. You just stand. You just hold the line.		
There will never be a time in your life that you pray for God to give you victory over anything and everything you are going through – emotional, financial, marital, mental, cultural, social, or personal that God will not give you victory over it if you pray for victory, if you will stand for him.		
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER		
1. Do you show for battle every day in your faith walk? Do you prepare yourself for spiritual warfare by spending time in the Word of God and in prayer so that you're ready to face whatever the enemy tries to throw at you?		
2. Which piece of the armor of God do you sometimes fail to put or	n?	
NOTES		





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