

**A Fitting Conclusion**

Ephesians 6:18b-24
Pastor John Sloan

Introduction: Finding meaningful application in the closing remarks of the New Testament letters can be challenging, because the authors typically include some very personal requests (like “bring me my coat when you come” and “don’t forget my books”). Some of these requests seem to have little relevance, if any, to us. Yet, they offer us a glimpse into the sort of relationships that God uses to advance the gospel.

By Whatever Means (He Deems) Necessary

01.

02.

03.



1. What are the characteristics of the type of prayer that the Apostle Paul requests from his readers (hint: there are five in Eph. 6:18)?
2. Why do we, as Christians, feel as though we always have to be *doing* something? How does this compulsion to get things done impact (or impede) our prayer lives?
3. Media mogul Ted Turner once proclaimed that “Christianity is a religion for losers.” In what sense was he wrong? In what sense was he right?
4. What do you feel is the greatest hindrance to your evangelistic efforts: a lack of boldness or a lack of compassion for the lost? Please explain your answer.
5. There is tremendous freedom in this confession (in light of the gospel): “I’m a sinner and I often fail.” Why?
6. How is the gospel advanced through a *unified* church?

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[A Study Through
Ephesians]

**BY WHATEVER MEANS
(HE DEEMS) NECESSARY**

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01. The gospel advances
through our unyielding prayers
for boldness and fruitfulness.

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“Of course it is a great relief to be doing things. Yet, I wonder whether as Christians we are aware of the problem which confronts us? ... I ask the question

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because it seems to be so clear,
from the activities of many, that
they have not even begun to
understand it. They ... pin their
faith ... to certain methods and

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they do not realize that they are not only not successful, but they cannot be, because of the nature of the problem that is confronting them.” Martyn Lloyd-Jones

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02. The gospel advances through
our unguarded openness.

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“Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Give me

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back my joy again; you have broken me - now let me rejoice. Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Restore to me the joy of your salvation." Ps. 51 (NLT)

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“A man must have forgiveness, or else everything will be emptiness to him - but when he is absolved, he goes forth with joy and is led forth with peace!” Charles H. Spurgeon

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“Because we are daily sinners, we need God’s daily distributions of free grace that come our way as a result of Christ’s finished work.”

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03. The gospel advances through the reconciled relationships of a unified church.

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