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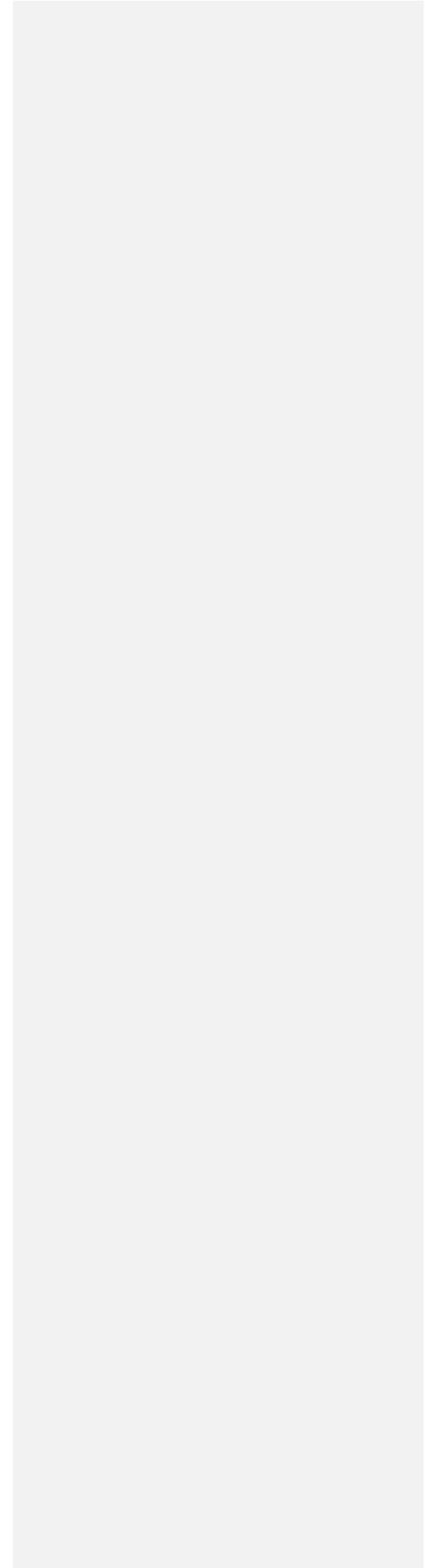
Series: Wholly Armed, Part 8

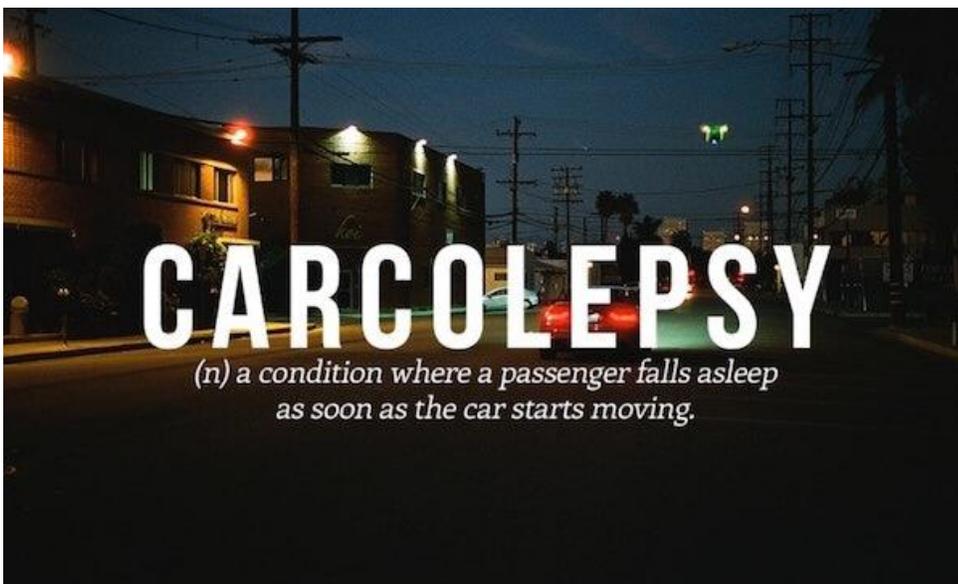
Ephesians 6:18-20

I am always amused when a public speaker invents a word, in an effort to sound more eloquent. I was watching a clip of a preacher on YouTube when he said,

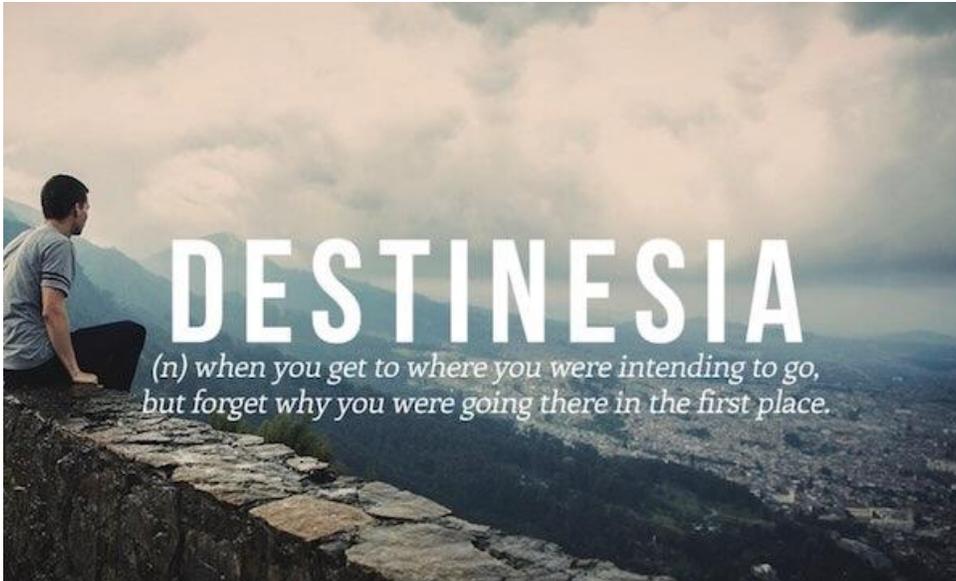
“I hate death. Death is so egocentricitous”.The people said, “Preach, Bishop!”. I thought to myself, “That is not a word”.

I read a list of made-up words and their definitions





recently, that made me chuckle.



I do not, as a habit, make up words. I have a large vocabulary and facility with language that makes that unnecessary, but sometimes...I must.

I am in good company. The apostle Paul did it in Ephesians 3:20. The word for *exceeding abundantly* is a coined term because Paul couldn't find a word to describe the power of the God who goes beyond

what we could ask or think.

For this sermon I have made up a word: butterance.

Comment [1]:

Before I define my word, let me take to our text.

Paul has written of the importance of being clothed in the full outfit which God provides, in order that we might engage the powers and principalities and the schemes, wiles, tricks of our evil foe, Satan himself.

Paul reminds us that this kind of warfare is not won by clever speech. No, we must pray! Paul instructs us as to *how* to pray and conduct ourselves, John Stott observes four universals (alls) in verse 18.

1. Pray in the Spirit

2. Pray on **all** occasions
3. Pray with diverse prayers(**all** kinds)
4. Be alert
5. **ALWAYS** keep on praying, for **all** the saints

Then Paul dares to ask for prayer for himself. He does not ask the Ephesians believers to pray for material items. He asks that they pray for his **courage** and his **content** (19). Paul says that he is as chained to this gospel, as he is chained to the soldiers who are guarding him.

Note the Pauline implication(in verses 19-20) that the prayers of the Ephesians give impetus to the ministry of Paul. The prayers of the saints in Ephesus become the grease that makes smooth,

Paul's ministry. Those prayers are the butterance, the lubricant, for Paul's utterance. Picture the gears of Paul's ministry, turning smoothly. They turn smoothly because that are well-oiled with the butter of the Ephesians' prayers. Ah, the wonder of intercessory prayer. When you pray for me, I am more effective and my ministry. When I pray for you, you are strengthened. (Cf. Romans 15:30-32; Colossians 4:2-4)

Paul alludes to the possibility of proclaiming a word, without content.

I have heard, as you have, sermons that had lots of fire but little light. I once heard a preacher describe the making of a cake with such fervor that the

audience went nuts. “You take some flour, and uh, you add some butter. Oh, somebody knows what I’m talking about...” By the time he got to the eggs, people were shouting! That’s not substantial content. The content of Paul’s message is the mystery of the gospel. In the New Testament, a *mystery* is not something that can’t be known. It is something that is not known until now. (Cf. Colossians 1:27, for example). That’s what Paul wants to preach. Let us declare the mystery, the content, the substance of the gospel.

Illus.

When I was a young driver, I borrowed a friend’s car. I knew little about how engines work. The “check

engine” light came on and I kept driving. What I did not know is that a hose had burst and I was now driving the engine without its needed flow of oil. The engine kept leaking and I kept driving. Eventually, the engine seized, now inoperative for lack of oil. May God use you in my life and me in yours, that our ministries may be well-lubricated. You are the butterance for my utterance.

Amen