

## Brave, Strong, Known and Loved—The Devil is Real- January 6th, 2020

Scripture: Ephesians 6.10-13

### **Ephesians 6.10-13 (NIV)**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

### **Ephesians 1.18-20 (NIV)**

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

## Read and Discuss

### **Introduction**

Pastor Jacob kicked off the new year with a series called “Brave, Strong, Known, Loved”. If you’ve been following since last year, you’ll recognize this title. It’s become a part of the way we talk at Providence. How do you call out the best in someone else? Remind them of the truth that they are brave, strong, known, and loved. This year has a particular focus on how to stand strong in the midst of spiritual battles. Paul wrote to the believers in Ephesus and reminded them that the real battles are often of the unseen variety. They are not the surface battles of flesh and blood. Paul points to dark powers of evil that are used to scheme against us. But we can stand in the armor of God and experience the same power that rose Jesus from the dead!

### **Engage the Scripture**

- Read Ephesians 6.10-13. When you read verse 11, how do you picture the “full armor of God”? What images come to mind? When you read on in verse 12, Paul shares about the nature of the struggle for which you are to wear armor. What’s different about it? How does this effect the way you picture the full armor of God?
- If the biggest struggles we face are not against flesh and blood, then what they might be against? How do you think of spiritual forces of evil? How do you think of the devil? Do you ever have a sense or an awareness that you are in a spiritual battle?
- Standing is an important image in this passage. Paul says to take a stand (v11), stand your ground, and finally to stand (v12). God wants us to be victorious, to be the ones still standing in the end. Have you ever been in some kind of battle and felt like laying down? Most of us can

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relate to that feeling. Name a time when the strength to stand seemed to come from somewhere other than yourself.

- Read Ephesians 1.18-20. Pastor Jacob invited us to stand in the power of God. Here, Paul invites us to know that power which raised Jesus from the dead. What kind of power raises dead things to life? Human strength? Strategic maneuvering? How is the power that we can know in God different from the visible powers of this world?

### **Pray**

Pray this memory verse for 2020. If you are in a group, consider keeping your eyes open as you pray and speak these words over one another.

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. (repeat) Amen.*