

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

Scripture: Ephesians 6.10-15

### **Ephesians 6.10-15 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

### **Ephesians 4.20-24 (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

### **Ephesians 2.8-9 (NIV)**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.

## Read and Discuss

### **Introduction**

Pastor Jacob continued our series to kick-off 2020. We are reminded that as children of God, we were created to be Brave, Strong, Known and Loved. Paul wrote in the letter to the Ephesians that we have certain attire that we can put on in order to live out our identity in Christ.

### **Engage the Scripture**

- Read Ephesians 6.10-15. Pastor Jacob said that we all struggle. What struggles first come to mind for you? How do you guard yourself from or prepare to engage these struggles? What do you “put on” in light of them?
- Ephesians tells us that we will have to armor up against the evil that our struggles can let in. What are your natural defenses to your struggles? Are they healthy or harmful?
- The belt of truth is worn around our middle. It holds things together. Have you ever forgotten a belt when you really needed one? How did it impact your day? Did it change the way you walk? Did it lead to distractions? How has the truth of Jesus Christ held you together?

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- A breastplate is meant to cover your vital organs (i.e., heart and lungs). When you wear a good set of armor you feel invincible. What does it mean that you can wear the righteousness of Christ? How does it make you feel?
- Jacob shared the story of a “saint” of the church who passed away recently. She had battled cancer and as Hospice was called in, she chose to wear her t-shirt from Providence that says, “Brave, Strong, Known, Loved” She was wearing it when she passed away. How do you wear your identity in Christ?
- Read Ephesians 2.8-9. If you think that the armor described in Ephesians is difficult to wear, then let this passage, also from Ephesians, remind you that God gives you what you need. Is it ever difficult to believe that you can’t save yourself? How might this be seen as good news for you?
- Jacob introduced the idea that, if our feet are “fitted with the readiness that come from the gospel of peace” (Eph. 6.15), then we can bring peace with every step we take. What are the places in your life where you can be the one to carry peace? What are the places or times when you are tempted to wear combat boots?

### **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.*