



# **GET READY**

## **Gear Up, So You Can Stand Firm!**

*Pastor Doug Heisel – January 20, 2019*

Ephesians 6:10-20 — Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. **Put on the full armor of God**, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 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.

**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.

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

**Putting on the armour of God is an act of FAITH. To believe that I am COVERED from head to toe with EVERYTHING I need, I can be and do all God has for me.**

**1. I believe that the WISDOM OF GOD is available to me so that I can SEE beyond the immediate problem(s) to what Jesus wants me see and do instead.**

Philippians 1:12 — Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.

Philippians 1:14 — Because of my chains most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. vs 14

**2. I believe that the POWER OF GOD is available to me so that I can shake off negative THOUGHTS, that will try and steal my joy and strength.**

Philippians 1:15-18 — It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. **But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.**

2 Corinthians 10:5 — We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

**3. I believe that the PROVISION OF GOD is available to me, to carry me into the FUTURE that God has for me.**

Philippians 1:18-20 — Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death

2 Timothy 4:7-8 — I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.

**Declare the previous three statements over your life.**

**You are covered from head to toe  
with everything you need  
to be and do all God has for you!**

Our beliefs must be backed up with our mouths. Post these notes in a place where it reminds you to declare these three statements until they are embedded deeply in your spirit. Nothing is more important than our right beliefs about God.

### **Life Group Discussion and Questions**

**BREAKING THE ICE:** Share a “high” (some positive experience you had) and a “low” (something difficult or challenging) that you experienced last year.

**DIGGING IN:** Today is about putting on the armour of God and believing that we are covered from head to toe with everything we need to be and do all God has for us—especially in the middle of adverse circumstances. Begin by reading Ephesians 6:10-20 and Philippians 1:1-26.

4. Look over the description of the armor of God. Notice how complete it is. Discuss the difference it would make for a follower of Jesus if he or she fully embraced that this analogy is our spiritual reality.
5. Notice too, that in order to access the benefits of the armor of God, we must put it on. We do that by believing the right things about God and us. Today is about believing the right things about God. Review the 3 main points from this past Sunday and read the corresponding verses. Highlight what stands out to you most and why.
3. What practical place can you apply what we’ve studied today?

**BRINGING IT HOME:** Our beliefs must be backed up with our mouths. Post these notes in a place where it reminds you to declare these three statements over your life. Repeat them throughout this series to get them embedded deeply in your spirit. Nothing is more important than our right beliefs about God.