



# GET READY

## **Don't Be Shocked — There Will Be Battles**

*Pastor Doug Heisel – January 13, 2019*

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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.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

### **WHAT WE MUST BELIEVE TO BE READY FOR ANYTHING THAT IS AHEAD:**

- 1. There is a spiritual ADVERSARY who wants to steal and destroy God's plans for you.**

John 10:10 — The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; (But Jesus said), "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

- 2. You have a DELIVERER who is greater, and He has no EQUAL.**

1 John 4:4 ... greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

### **3. We are not to FEAR the devil, but we are to be aware of his SCHEMES.**

2 Corinthians 2:11b ... for we are not ignorant of (the Devil's) schemes.

- **The devil will question God's CHARACTER.**

Genesis 3:1 — Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

- **The devil will challenge your IDENTITY.**

Revelation 12:10 — For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, he who accuses them day and night before our God.

John 8:44 — Whenever (the devil) speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- **The devil will oppose your PURPOSE.**

Luke 22:31 — "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith will not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

#### **OUR RESPONSE:**

##### **1. Keep trusting in the goodness and power of our great DELIVERER.**

Matthew 6:13 — But deliver us from the evil one.

##### **2. GEAR UP, in who you are in Christ, and STAND FIRM in all God has given you, and called you to do.**

Ephesians 6:11 — Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

**3. Play OFFENSE. Your PURPOSE involves you doing your part to see more people filled up with new life in Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 6:18-20 — With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly **make known the mystery of the gospel**, for which I am an ambassador in chains. **Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.**

**LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS:**

**BREAKING THE ICE:** Life is a mixture of battles and blessings. Take some time and highlight some of your current blessings. What are you thankful for as you begin a new year?

**DIGGING IN:** Read Ephesians 6:10-20 — thinking about the various “battles” or challenges that we face in life.

1. Life has blessings and life has battles. Paul is reminding us though that some of those battles have an evil spiritual force behind them. On the surface, it is a battle with another person. Below the surface is a spiritual battle to distract you, or discourage you, or even defeat you — so that you don't become who God wants you to be, or you don't fulfill the purposes He has for your life. Come up with some 21st century examples where a problem might have a negative spiritual agenda driving it.
2. Review the first three points and sub-points from this week's teaching. What stands out to you and why?
3. Spend most of the time talking about the 3 ways to respond, reference the Our Response section. Read the corresponding verses under the three points and share one way you can focus on that this week.

**BRINGING IT HOME:** God has a plan for you and for us (New Life Church). Let's not buy into the lies of our enemy, nor shrink back. Pray for our church and our pastors. Pray for people who need to know Jesus. Pray that all of us to continue to do our part in seeing more people filled up with new life in Jesus Christ.