

## Prepare Yourself To Fight True Evil (Ephesians 6:10-20)

### *The Ultimate Ghost Story sermon series*

By Pastor David Hillis, 10.29.17

**BIG IDEA:** While our spiritual enemy attacks us every day, God gives us, as believers, everything we need to protect ourselves, to fight back and to win.

**Is Satan Real?** (1 Peter 5:8-9; John 10:10)

The Bible warns us to be alert, to be careful of the devil's schemes, because he is real, is seeking to destroy us, and his most successful device is to lure us into thinking that either God doesn't exist (2 Corinthians 4:4), or that he doesn't really exist, leaving us wide open to attack.

**We're In A Spiritual Battle, Not A Physical One** (Ephesians 6:10-17, 1:19-21, 3:16; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4)

This passage, from Ephesians, told Christians everywhere that there is a way to protect yourself from any plan the devil has in mind to attack you. Paul is telling the Ephesians that they cannot be weak or passive, and he uses imagery of an armed soldier ready for war to give a picture of what a secure, ready believer in Christ looks like.

#### The Armor We Need To Protect Ourselves

1. **Truth** (Ephesians 6:14; Isaiah 59:15; Psalm 145:18; John 8:32, 44)
2. **Righteousness** (Ephesians 6:14, 2:1-10; Isaiah 33:15-17, 59:17; James 4:7-8)
3. **Peace** (Ephesians 6:15; Isaiah 26:3, 52:7; John 16:33; 1 Peter 3:11; 1 John 3:1-2; Romans 8:15-16)
4. **Faith** (Ephesians 6:16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; 1 Corinthians 2:4-5, 5:7; Romans 10:17; James 1:3; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 11:6)
5. **Salvation** (Ephesians 6:17; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Isaiah 59:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:8)

#### The Weapons We Fight Back With

1. **God's Word (Scripture)** (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Matthew 4:1-11; Deuteronomy 8:3)
2. **Prayer** (Ephesians 6:18; Romans 8:26-27; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2; Matthew 12:22-30, 16:18-19, 18:18)

**MY NEXT STEP:** *In what ways are you being attacked spiritually lately? With what you have learned, what steps do you need to resist the enemy in your life?*

## QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

1. If you have been reading *The God I Never Knew* with us through this series, read chapters 18-21 and discover more about what it means to pray in the Spirit and to protect yourself against the enemy's attacks.
2. Reread Ephesians 6:10-20, paying careful attention to what it is saying about how you and those you love face spiritual battles, or attacks, every day. Ask God to help you process what it means for today and how it might relate to your life. Consider a word, phrase or sentence that is especially meaningful to you or that God is calling you to pay attention to, and how God would have you apply that idea or concept to your life today.
3. As you consider your own armor, what parts are in good shape? Which are in bad shape, or maybe missing entirely? What do you need to do to get ready for your next real battle, whenever it might come? What is at stake if you don't adequately prepare?
4. Look also at Ephesians 2:1-3,14; 4:14,17-19,26-27; and 5:13-18. In what ways can these forces operate in our lives? With what attitudes should we face these forces?
5. In your sermon notes today, Pastor Dave has provided along with each piece of the armor of God and a list of supportive Scriptures for each for study and reflection. Take some time with those Scriptures, perhaps starting with the ones you feel you need in this season of your life.
6. Next week we will start a new series called *Entrusted*, where we will discuss some of the most incredible things that God has entrusted to us. Feel free to read ahead in John 13:1-17. What example is Jesus trying to teach his disciples? Are you using the talents and resources God has given you, or just "looking busy" these days? Share your thoughts and experiences with Pastor Dave in the comments of the "Hello" card at [www.myGrace.church](http://www.myGrace.church)!

## PRAYERS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD: Orphans/Foster Children

Give thanks to God that He has raised up families here at Grace, and in our community, to open their hearts and homes to foster and adopted children. Pray that they would experience God's grace and abundant love for the children in their care. May all children experience His love through their families, be healed of any hurts they may have experienced, and come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Amen.