



Ephesians 6:13-17
Message Video:
[2020 2.0 - New Year Reboot](#)

Happy New Year!

- If any year needs a do-over, it's 2020

As we enter into our post-quarantine life, we are taking precautions.

In Ephesians 6, God has given us a spiritual haz-mat suit: The Full Armor of God.

- Paul wrote all the letters of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians from prison, most likely in Rome.
- Sometimes God allows us to be slowed down for a purpose.

Ephesians 6:13

“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 firm.”

- As God's people, we are called to be bold, fearless, strong, successful, and brave.
- God has given us the gear to stand firm.

Ephesians 6:14-17

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.”

- The Shield of Faith
 - Paul is referencing a Roman soldier. Everyone he writes to will recognize a Roman soldier.
 - As a warrior, the shield is what keeps you safe during a time of lethal, brutal weaponry.
- A Christian's shield is faith.
 - Ephesians 6 references a larger rectangular shield which covered the majority of the body.
 - The root of the Greek word (thyreos) is the same root as the word for door because the shield resembled the size and shape of a door.
 - They also had bevelled edges because they would fight in legions, side by side, with the shields interlocked to create a wall of protection.
- God gives us the shield of faith to use together, in tandem.
 - We are more successful, safer, secured together.
- God designed us to be a spiritual family and work together.
 - Stay connected during this time through LifeGroups, The Wave, KidStuf, and First Look.
 - When the church doors open, get to church!
 - It's a Biblical command
 - *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25)*
 - Engage and Invite
- We have to do life together.
 - The shield of faith is vital, but we do it together
- *Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)*
 - The devil is like a lion.

- In the animal kingdom, lions take down large prey by picking the ones that stray from the herd.
- Stay with the herd.
- The Shield of Faith also links to salvation
 - Faith is the only thing we do in the salvation process.
 - Jesus does all the work for our salvation
 - Through Christ, we are justified: just as if I'd never done it.
- How do I become saved?
 - Salvation is a completed work based on what Jesus did on the cross.
 - *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."* (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - All we do is believe; not works or good deeds.

John 10:10

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

- Jesus wants your life to be powerful, blessed, on point, and full.

John 10:9

"I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved..."

- Jesus is the door.
 - The root word for shield is also the root word for door.
 - We pass through the threshold into the kingdom of God through faith.
 - It's not just acknowledging or admiring the door.
 - Step THROUGH the door.

John 3:3

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"

- Birthdays are a specific day, month, and year.
- Do you remember the day of your spiritual birth?
- Going to church doesn't make you a Christian.
- Baptism doesn't save you.

Romans 10:9,13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [...] For ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

- When you pray the Romans 10:9 prayer from your heart, you pass through the door of salvation

God can handle your hard God questions. He is highly secure.

- Are all religious doors the same?
 - Look at it in life - There is only one door in the whole world that leads to YOUR house and YOUR home.
 - In the same way, there is only one door that leads to heaven (home): Jesus.
 - See John 10:9.
- Is now the right time?
 - *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.”* (Revelation 3:20)
 - Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is knocking on the door to your life
 - *I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.* (2 Corinthians 6:2)
 - NOW is the time.
 - Paul wrote this letter to a different audience, but God intended it for you.

If you made the decision to follow Jesus,
text “salvation” to 954-866-4443.

Discussion Starters

Remember to pick and choose which questions work for your LifeGroup.

1. What purpose do you think God has/had for you during this forced slow down in your life?
2. Why do you think Paul used a Roman soldier's armor to illustrate God's protection and provision for His people?
3. Pastor David referenced a door several times. What are those references? How do they connect to one another?
4. Read Hebrews 10:25. What are some ways to continue "meeting together"?
5. Read 1 Peter 5:8. What are examples of how the devil might try to "devour" us? What habits/measures have you taken to avoid "straying from the herd"?
6. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. How do the Shield of Faith and salvation go hand in hand?
7. What part do we play in our salvation? What part does Jesus play?
8. Read John 10:9-10. What kind of life is Jesus offering us? What do we need to do to have that life?
9. What is the difference between admiring or acknowledging the Door and stepping through the door in terms of salvation?
10. Read Romans 10:9-13. According to these verses, what must we do to be saved?
11. How did Pastor David's example of there only being one door to your house shed light on whether or not all religions lead to heaven?
12. Read Revelation 3:20. How have you felt Jesus knocking on the door to your heart recently or in the past?
13. Read 2 Corinthians 6:2. According to this verse, when is the time to follow Jesus? If you are already saved, is there something in your life that God is using this verse to remind you that the time of His favor is now?
14. Is today the day you need to step through the door to salvation?