

To the Graduates *Ephesians 6:10-18*

We have two graduates this year Justin Agpaoa and Austin Smith. As you guys are getting ready to go out to college I wanted to encourage you with one of my favorite passages of Scripture. Here we have the encouragement not to be strong in our own power or wisdom, but to get our strength from the Lord. We need to remember that it is the Holy Spirit who is with us and we need to be dependent on Him. Also, our enemy is crafty and the only way we are going to stand is through our relationship with the Lord. As you guys go out things will not always be easy, there are going to be trials and hard times, but through it all remember that our struggle is not against the people or the circumstances that are around us, but there is a spiritual realm where the battle is taking place.

There are 7 things that are given which we should be careful to put on everyday. First, **Truth**. People will try and tell you many different things, but if you know the truth and follow it, you will not be deceived. Second, **Righteousness**. Right living or a consistent (daily), up to date, born again, relationship with the Lord. Third, **Gospel of Peace**. Are you prepared to allow the Holy Spirit to use your life to share the Gospel with the people that you are going to come into contact with? Fourth, **Faith**. Everyone puts their faith in something, but our faith needs to be in the Lord and what He has done for us on the cross. Fifth, **Salvation**. We are saved through the work of Christ on the cross and we have the hope of His coming again, are we living like He will come at any moment? Sixth, **The Word of God**. Are we in the Word every day? Do we know the Word enough so that when the enemy attacks we can fall back on the promises of God? Seventh, **Prayer**. One of the easiest to overlook, but one of the most important. Prayer needs to be the thing that we are doing everyday, as the Spirit moves us we need to pray.

I know that the Lord still uses this passage in my life to encourage me especially to pray. So, I hope that this will be something that the Lord will remind you of, as well as the rest of us, as we grow in our relationship with Him.

Youth Pastor, Elias