

By Putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness



Ephesians 6:10-14

○ Review Lessons Taught:

1. Having a Good Journey Spiritually: By Putting on the Whole Armor of God. (Ephesians 6:10-18)
2. The Purpose: to give us the tools that are necessary for us to grow up and become mature so that we will reach maximum development.
3. The Goal: for every believer to become mature so that we will be an instrument that God will use in this hour.

○ Statements About Spiritual Warfare:

- A. To understand the battle of spiritual warfare, we must first recognize that we in a spiritual war to begin with.
- What does Spiritual Warfare mean? Dr. Tony Evans gave a good definition – “Spiritual warfare is the cosmic conflict waged in the invisible (spiritual realm), but simultaneously fleshed out in the visible (physical realm).
 - The root of the war is something you cannot see, but the effects of the war are clearly seen and felt. This is because everything physical is influenced or cause by something spiritual.

○ Things to Remember about Spiritual Warfare:

1. Until you address the spiritual cause of the problem, we will never fix the physical effect of the problem.
2. We fight from the advantage point (That Christ has given us) (Ephesians 1:3) “We don’t fight for victory – We fight from victory!”
 - Through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit – We have the cutting edge in life.
 - We have the fulness of God operating in our lives (the entire Trinity) is at work in us through the power of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:7, 13-15, 14:15-17)
 - The Holy Spirit knows the enemy we face – He knows every plot and scheme he tries to bring against.
 - The Holy Spirit helps us to fight not from the advantage point of this world system or from a worldly perspective – but from a Kingdom Perspective and from a Heavenly view.

- He helps us to defend His territory and reclaim territory that the enemy has stolen in order to advance the Kingdom of God.

- There are (7) Seven Components of our Spiritual Armor:

1. The Belt of Truth
2. The Breastplate of Righteousness
3. The Shoes – Gospel of Peace
4. The Shield of Faith
5. The Helmet of Salvation
6. The Sword of the Spirit
7. The Power behind of Armor which is Prayer

B. In Paul's day, he knew that it was unnatural for a soldier to go into a natural war without a full set of armor, knowing that they would be exposing themselves to physical harm or even death.

1. The same is true for every believer who's a part of God's army – a failure to put on the "full or complete set" of God's spiritual armor would expose us to the onslaught attacks from the enemy.
2. Paul urges every believer to "put on" or to cloth oneself" never to take it off as long as we live on this earth and are subject to Satan and his demonic army schemes and plots of deception, lies and trickery.

- What is the Purpose of God's Armor for the Believer?

1. Paul tells us the "full armor" of God is essential: "To stand against the wiles of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11, 13)
2. The word "stand" means to make firm, fixed, established, be keep intact, or to stand unharmed.
3. Paul makes it clear that before we engage in a spiritual fight against our adversary (Satan), we must be equipped properly, established on a firm foundation, be fixed firmly, and grounded in the Truth of God's Word.

- Satan's tactics have not changed.
 1. He uses different means but his schemes and plots are used to deceive, entrap, enslave, and ruin the lives of mankind.
 2. He uses lies to create fear, chaos, confusion, disorder and disruption in our lives.
 3. He enjoys distorting the Truth, especially when it comes to God and the His Word.

- The Belt of Truth. The first piece of the Full Armor of God. (Ephesians 6:14)
 1. Paul associates the "belt" of a soldier with truth. Paul understood that for every true believer God's Word is Truth and it serves as our Foundation.
 2. Paul recognized that the "belt" that covered the waist of the soldier was a very important component of the Roman soldier armor.
 - The "belt" was worn close to the body of the soldier and it brought stability as well as held everything in place.
 - Every believer should "hold" the Truth of God's Word very close. Jesus Christ and His Word has the power to hold everything together in our lives. (Colossians 1:17)

- F. Notice again, Paul declares (Ephesians 6:14), 'Stand therefore, having girded your loins (waist) with truth...'
 - The word "girded" means to bind, to fasten or to encircle.
 1. Unfortunately, there are many Christians today who have yet to "gird" (to bind, to fasten, to encircle) there lives with the Word of God.
 2. A failure to do so will affect your life both physically and spiritually.
 3. Through God's Word, He has provided us with everything we need to maximize our spiritual growth and maturity.
 4. Many Christians walk in defeat and failure in their lives because they don't spend time in the Word of God – they have nothing to stand upon and nothing to move forward with. They continue to lose this spiritual battle against the enemy.

- **What does God's Word teach us about us as Believers and our Enemy?**
 1. **As believers we do not have to wrestle with Satan and his demonic forces all night. – We just speak the Word – Stand on the Word!**
 2. **Resist him, stand firm in the faith of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 5:8-10)**
 3. **Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)**

- **Things to Remember about Jesus Christ and His Word:**
 1. **The Truth of God's Word should always be the Highest authority in your life as a believer.**
 - **The believer must “put on or be clothed in Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 4:24, John 14:1-6, John 1:1-5, 14)**
 - **Jesus declared, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”**
 - **Paul encourages believers to rightly divide the Word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)**
 - **Solomon declares that we must bind it upon our hearts and tie it around our neck – we must study it, meditate on it daily, when we sleep and when we wake up. (Proverbs 6:20-23)**

 2. **The truth of God's Word should always be the standard to which everything our lives must conform too. (Romans 12:1-2)**
 - **Never base your relationship with Jesus Christ, or your decisions upon your feelings or emotions (which constant change) We are limited (our finite thinking) cannot compare to God and His Word who is Infinite in knowledge and wisdom – He's Omniscient.**
 - **Everything that pertains to life and godliness should always be based upon God and His Word.**
 - **Allow the truth of God's Word to be the measuring guide to all that we say, do, and how we serve the Lord and others.**

Putting on The Breastplate of Righteousness

Ephesians 6:10-18

- A. Notice again, Apostle Paul (Ephesians 6:10-18), exhorts believers to “put on” the whole armor of God in order to stand firm against the attacks of our enemy – Satan.**
- 1. Paul recognized how significant the “belt and the breastplate was to the Roman soldier going into battle. The belt gave the soldier stability and held everything in place such as his tunic (robe) breastplate and his sword or dagger.**
 - 2. Clearly, Paul is fully aware how essential the “belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness” is to The Christian soldier (believer).**
 - The belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness are connected very closely – It was made to fit securely and tightly together.**
 - The soldier’s life would be endangered of injury or even death of his breastplate came undone.**
 - 3. The reason the “belt of truth comes before the breastplate of righteousness” is simply because there can’t be righteousness apart from God’s Truth.**
 - Jesus Christ and His Word is the standard of Truth. The Holy Spirit helps every believer to conform to the image and likeness of Jesus Christ.**
 - Every believer should make sure that their lives are in proper alignment with the Word of God – If we are going to Have a good Spiritually!**
 - 4. What was the purpose of the Breastplate? And how does it relate to our lives spiritually?**
 - It was designed to protect the vital organs such as the heart, as well as other vital organs.**
 - By putting on the “breastplate of righteousness our spiritual lives are protected from the curse of sin and from a sin cursed world.**

B. The Believer's New Position and New Identity – The Righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

- 1. The righteousness of God in Christ Jesus simply means that you are “Justified.” It is God’s righteous act of removing the guilt and penalty of sin while, at the same time declaring the ungodly to be righteous, through faith in Jesus Christ. (Acts 13:38-39)**
 - **How are we Justified? The Word of God is clear that no one is justified by his own efforts of works. (Romans 3:20, Galatians 2:16, 3:11)**
 - **God “justified” us by His grace through Jesus Christ – which means without any merits or good deeds on our part. It was freely given to us by God through Jesus Christ.**
- 2. What was God’s requirement for “Justification?” It was a Blood sacrifice. (Romans 5:17-21)**
 - **Jesus Christ fulfilled the law on our behalf, so we could be made right with God, through faith in Him. (Luke 24:44-47)**

C. What are the Results of Justification? (Romans 5:1-2, Philippians 4:6-7)

- 1. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (vs. 1)**
- 2. We have access by faith into this grace which now we stand. (vs. 2)
We are welcome in the presence of God.**
- 3. We have the peace of God (Philippians 4:6-7)**

D. The Practice of Righteous Living – Christ’s Way of Living (Matthew 6:33, 5:6, 1 Peter 1:13-16)

- 1. What does sanctification mean? It simply means to be set apart or to be separated.**
- 2. There are (3) three stages of Sanctification:**
 - **I’m saved. I’m being saved. I shall be saved.**
- 3. There is Initial or Positional sanctification**
 - **That is when a person believes in Christ – he/she is immediately set apart for God. Once and for all and permanently. (Hebrews 10:10, 2 Timothy 2:19-26)**
 - **It is Practical Righteous Living according to God’s Word**

- a. It is a life lived in simple Obedience to God's Word (Spiritual Principle of Obedience – God's plan to reward my life.)**
- b. We can walk in the newness of life in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 4:24-32)**
- c. We are to clothe ourselves in the righteous works for the glory of God. (Colossians 3:9-17)**