

The Armor of God – part 2

Ephesians 6:10–18 ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

The Breastplate of Righteousness

The breastplate in armor was designed to protect the vital organs, particularly the heart and lungs. In Roman armor, which is what Paul is using as a reference, it is a clam-shell like piece that covers front and back.

Do not listen to teachers that say the only part not protected is our back because we are made to have each other's backs. God did not design us with weaknesses in our faith, or leave us vulnerable when we have faith in Him. That is not God!!!

- Is putting on the breastplate of righteousness avoiding sin and acting righteous? NO!
- It is understanding the righteousness that you already have in Christ!
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- What is righteousness? – To actually “make righteous,” implying moral transformation. Having all sin pardoned, declaring all claims of the law satisfied, not relaxed or set aside but fulfilled. The person justified is declared to be entitled to all the advantages and rewards arising from perfect obedience to the law.

Sin in our lives can give the enemy a foothold and a place from which to attack. But not just sin, but even sin consciousness.

- **Hebrews 10:2–3** For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.³ But in those *sacrifices there is* a reminder of sins every year.
- **Hebrews 10:11–12** And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

Understanding that you are righteous and operating according to that understanding is really the only effective and proven method to conquering sin in your life.

- And the good news is – we are righteous.
- **Hebrews 10:1** For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.
- **Hebrews 10:14** For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

If we are forgiven and made righteous, and God does not love us less when we sin, then why is this important?

- It was sin that caused man to lose authority in the first place
 - Sin makes us slaves (slaves have no authority)
 - **John 8:34** Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.
 - **Romans 6:14-16** For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!¹⁶ Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that

one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

- There are consequences to sin
 - **Romans 6:19-21** I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.
- Sin gives the enemy a foothold
 - Authority is based on our union with Christ. Sin allows the enemy to see times that we are not living out of Christ.

How do we put the breastplate of righteousness on?

- Believe you are righteous. Can you see yourself as righteous, or do you still view yourself as a sinner or unworthy of God?
- Live according to your identity in Christ.
- Live out of relationship.
- Remember it is not our righteousness, but Christ's righteousness.
 - **Galatians 2:20**
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21**
- Take authority over sin.

Having your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace

- Shoes. We move with confidence when we are wearing shoes.
- Ex – Legos on floor. Cross the floor blindfolded barefoot vs. army boots.

What is the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace?

- Preparation = foundation. This is referring to the foundation of the Gospel in our lives.
- Gospel of peace.
 - Gospel of the Kingdom is the good news that God's Kingdom has come here on earth
 - Gospel of Grace is the good news that we are saved by grace – It is that we have undeserved favor with God because of Jesus' sacrifice.
 - Gospel is good news – but good news as it pertains to our relationship with God
 - So the Gospel of Peace is not about having peace in our lives. It is specifically that we have peace with God. His wrath is satisfied by the blood of Christ.
 - **Romans 5:1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ
 - **Isaiah 53:10–11** Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.
- When we know that God is not angry with us. That He is on our side it changes everything.
 - **Romans 5:9-11** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.
 - **Romans 8:31** What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?

How do we put on our shoes?

- Make sure you know your foundation.
- Get a revelation of the love of the Father.
- Meditate on the Word of God.
- Renounce any lie that you may believe about how the Father views you. You are not His enemy. He is not angry with you. He loves you. He is for you.