

Spiritual Warfare part 2

Ephesians 6:10–18 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! – Remember, these are mindsets. Belief patterns.
- 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.

Example of attack – Satan whispering to me that is I am righteous and that won't change and it's not based on my works, then why does it matter?

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?
 - The enemy will lie to you. He will tell you:

- You are just a sinner
- You are not worthy to be in God's presence
- You probably aren't even saved.
- REFUTE THE ENEMY!
- **Ephesians 5:26-27** that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
- **Hebrews 10:22** let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
- Live according to your identity in Christ.
 - He made you righteous. Live from that base.
 - **Romans 3:22-24** even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
- Live out of relationship. – my example of attack.
- Remember it is not our works of righteousness, but Christ's righteousness. Therefore it cannot be taken away.
 - **Galatians 2:20-21** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain."
 - **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.

- 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

The Gospel of Peace tells us:

Our salvation is secure

- It is secure because Jesus did everything:

- **Romans 8:29-30** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.
- Because God made an oath that it is secure
 - **Hebrews 6:17-18** Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath, ¹⁸ that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.

God loves us

- **Ephesians 2:4-5** ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

God is not against us

- 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 8:31-39** What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen,

who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "*For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*" ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

How do we put on our shoes?

- Make sure you know your foundation.
 - Do you know the Gospel? Can you articulate what it takes to be saved?
- Get a revelation of the love of the Father.
 - Sit with Him and ask Him for this if you don't fully know His love for you.
- Meditate on the Word of God.
 - Find Scriptures and passages on this topic and really dwell on them.
- 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.

If your view of your salvation and the Father do not line up with the Bible – seek pastoral counseling or healing prayer.