

Spiritual Warfare pt 9 Body Armor

As we continue to study Spiritual Warfare, we are looking at the armor God provided us with for defensive purposes, while we are engaged in Spiritual warfare.

Sometimes we engage in spiritual warfare, and sometimes Spiritual warfare is cast upon us, in attacks from the demonic realm. Whichever the situation, we must be able to defend ourselves, and defense in the spiritual realm is much different than defense in the physical realm.

Last week we looked at The Belt of Truth, and the importance that truth plays in our world today, and in our lives today. This morning we are going to look at "The Breastplate of Righteousness".

To understand what I'm going to share with you this morning regarding the Breastplate of Righteousness, you first have to understand what Righteousness means.

To the world **Righteousness** means, “the quality of being morally true or justifiable.”

To God, righteousness is the quality of being right in the eyes of God, including *character*, *conscience* (attitude), *conduct* (action), and *command* (word). Righteousness is, therefore, based upon God’s standard because He is the ultimate RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The breastplate is also called the Body Armor. In our Roman Soldier (show pic), we can see that the Body armor is worn to protect the torso, the upper body.

In many cases when you are in a battle, you can take an injury to your arms or legs without being killed. But if your heart is pierced it can be a battle ending injury, and potentially the loss of the battle.

So Paul is telling us in our scripture:

Ephesians 6:10-14 (KJV)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Notice in vs 13 it say's "**take unto you the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand the evil day.**

Friends God knows what we are going through, He knows the difficulty in facing Satan's horde and trying to win in battle against them.

As in most things, God knows our battles, and in His infinite love for us, he not only warns us of the battle, but he equips us to win the battle and he equips us to survive the battle.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

The two first pieces of our armor according to God is TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.

I would have thought it would be you sword, but God knows what Satan has planned to defeat us, and God knows that righteousness is a protection that Satan can't defeat.

Righteousness is the quality of being right in the eyes of God, including *character, conscience* (attitude), *conduct* (action), and *command* (word).

When you and I are living in righteousness, our heart is protected from the dangers of this world. Satan uses the enticements of this physical world to engage our heart in battle.

When you and I are living according to God's laws and precepts, we are elevated above this physical world, and it's pleasure, and it's desires are no longer effective against us because we've set our eyes upon a higher goal.

You and I are righteous because of Jesus, not because of anything we've done, or any of our accomplishments. God is Righteous, and through Him you and I have become Righteous because of Jesus.

It is that Righteousness that enables us to withstand anything Satan has to use against us. It is that Righteousness that enables Jesus to go before the Devine Council and defend us against any accusations Satan can throw at us in the face of God.

Satan tried to defeat Jesus by tempting him with things of this world, but Jesus used the word of God to defeat Satan's attempts. Satan's efforts to entice Jesus ended in defeat for Satan because he could not reach Jesus Heart, it was protected by Righteousness. The Righteousness of God.

Psalm 32:11 (KJV)

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye *that are upright in heart.*

Psalm 34:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ *The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.*

Righteousness doesn't sound very exciting, it usually means we are not going to be able to enjoy the offerings of this world. But when we understand that the offerings of this world are enticements to get us off track, out of the light into darkness where the ambush lies.

Then we can see the effectiveness of righteousness, it is a protector of our hearts, and it will enable us to not only endure the attacks, but then since we've survived the attack, we are able to STAND and defend ourselves against any further attacks.

Paul went on to say of our armor:

Ephesians 6:13-15 (KJV)

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Peace in vs 15 comes from the Greek word " i-ray-nay" meaning: **Prosperity, quietness, rest.**

Peace is important to us especially in this world, because one of Satan's weapon in these last days is TURMOIL. Everything is stirred up, and when it starts to settle down, it just gets stirred up again.

In all this turmoil, bad decisions are made, battles are turned from victory to defeat. But God has equipped us with the Shoes of Peace.

Why shoes of peace?

I believe it's because we are navigating a minefield in these last days, and to reach our destination we must make it through the minefield uninjured. Under our own understanding that will be very difficult, but with the peace of God leading us, we will be able to stand against the wiles of the devil and we will exit the minefield of this world under our own power, intact and able to continue the fight.

Peace of the heart settles those earthly desires to participate in "what everyone else is doing". The prosperity of the Soul enables us to realize our wealth through Jesus, so that the shinny distractions of this world have no power against us.

The significance of our feet is that we must continue to move in this world, we cannot find comfort in what the world has to offer, so if we are to be continuously moving, then our feet are important.

In Vietnam the enemy used to dig a hole and lie in it, covered up, with a pipe running along the ground. They would watch for enemy US soldiers walking along a path, and they would shoot through the pipe striking the soldiers in the foot.

This doesn't seem to be an effective battle technique because no one dies from a foot injury, but it was effective because if you are shot in the foot, **you are out of the war**. Maybe not dead, but definitely sidelined, not effective in the battle.

Satan knows the difficulty he faces in killing one of God's children, so he is satisfied just getting you off the battlefield with an injury that makes it hard for you to fight back. When we lose our peace, we are UNSETTLED in our spirit, we are UNSURE of what to do. We find ourselves battling fear of the unknown.

The Peace of God is what enables us to march on, with a clear destination in sight, with the Promise of God clearly in our sight, and with the Holy Spirit as our guide through the minefield laid by Satan and his demonic forces.

So friends we find the first parts of our Spiritual Armor described to us in Paul's letter to the Ephesians are:

- 1: Truth
- 2: Righteousness
- 3: Peace

None of them are physical things that you can touch, you can't pick them up and carry them in your arms. You can't see them with your eyes, they are SPIRITUAL, and God being our General in this war, knows to fight a SPIRITUAL war, you must use SPIRITUAL weapons.

Remember **1 Corinthians 1:27 (KJV)**

²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

God doesn't do things like the world does, and Satan being a poor General, uses the things of the world to try to defeat us.

But God in his wisdom uses the things of the world designed to defeat us, to strengthen us. He warns us of their effects on us in the war, and gives us armor that protects us in very specific areas of attack.

Truth = to disable Satan's lies from having an effect on us.

Righteousness = to keep us from falling for the enticements of this world, designed to get us off course and into the darkness.

Peace = to comfort us and to give us rest while on this treacherous journey through the minefield of the Last Days of the Dispensation of Grace.