

KINGDOM CLOTHES

When we think of famous designers of clothes, there are several names that come to mind. Pierre Cardin, Christian Dior, Ralph Lauren (worth \$7.5 billion), Calvin Klein and Giorgio Armani (worth \$7 billion). They have been greatly rewarded for their creativity and quality. Millions of people around the world have proudly enjoyed wearing the clothes that bear their labels. What has this got to do with the kingdom of God? God is the greatest designer of clothes and wants us to enjoy wearing his particular line of garments. The following is a personal message God might write to you in light of some scripture and some Biblical scholars.

‘My dear child, what clothes are you wearing today? Of course, I already know, but I want you to think about it. For your information, I have been in the clothing business for a long time. I made Adam and Eve, I did not give them physical garments but they were crowned with my glory. In the Hebrew language, that word crowned means encircled. In essence, they were encircled by my light. - Psalm 8:5. After they disobeyed me they felt guilt, fear and shame. I then clothed them with garments of skin from an innocent animal whose blood I had shed. This was a preview to a similar event which took place thousands of years later.

Innocent lamb’s blood was shed in the city of Jerusalem. The priests performed their sacrificial duties as they slay numerous animals. However, one lamb was slain that was different. It was my sinless, unblemished beloved eternal Son. Jesus bore the shame of nakedness on the cross so that you can receive special garments from me. They enable you to come into my presence without fear or shame. There is one thing I require of you; leave your old filthy clothes behind, for I adorn you with garments of salvation.’ - Isaiah 64:6, Isaiah 61:10-11.

A Robe of Righteousness

I have arrayed you in a robe of righteousness as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest and as a bride adorns herself with jewels. I will make righteousness and praise spring up before all the nations. If you read Exodus 28 you will see how I designed sacred garments for the priests that were very colorful and beautiful. These garments gave those who wore them ‘dignity and honor’ - Exodus 28:20. They were ‘Holy unto the Lord’. Aaron bore the names of Israel over his heart on the breast piece.

As you wear my robe, you shall walk in peace, quietness and confidence - Isaiah 32:17. I have you close to my heart - Isaiah 40:11. You are a royal priest chosen and called by me. For what purpose you ask? That leads to another garment that I have prepared for you.

A Garment of Praise

You must never forget where I brought you from. You have been called to declare my praises because I called you out of darkness into my glorious light - 1 Peter 2:9. As you enter my courts, come with praise and thanksgiving - Psalm 100:4. It prepares the way that I can show you my salvation in your circumstances of life. - Psalm 50:23. There are times in your life when a spirit of despair seeks to come upon you. Cast it off and remind yourself that I have given you

a garment of praise! - Isaiah 61:3. You can now walk with dignity and honor for I have enabled you to serve me without fear in holiness and righteousness - Luke 1:74-75. You are my chosen holy one and dearly loved. Clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Forgive as I have forgiven you. Most of all, put on love. - Colossians 3:12-14. Adam and Eve lost my glory, but my glory will arise upon you and appear to others. They will come to your light. You will be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy!

- Isaiah 60:1-5

Shalom, Your Heavenly Father

What did Jesus wear?

Holy Spirit He was born of the Spirit and later clothed with the Spirit at his baptism when the Spirit came upon him and rested. This explains the power and wisdom Jesus walked in.

Compassion. Often we read where Jesus had compassion on people and then healed them or met another need in their life. He felt the pain of others.

Kindness: It is easy to be kind to people when we know they can give something good back to us. Jesus showed kindness to the helpless or those avoided by society.

Gentleness: Jesus had great power but yet was gentle. He treated fragile people with great care and gentleness. 'A bruised reed he will not break...'. - Isaiah 42:3

Patience: Jesus had to be patient with his disciples, who were often slow to learn the truths and grow into the maturity they would need to carry on after Jesus left.

Peace: Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. Everyone has to face various levels of stress in their lives. Many people resort to alcohol, pills or window sills. No one ever took on more responsibility than Jesus. His mission to earth was a challenging one. He had to face serious opposition and overcome many obstacles. (We have another message called Mission Impossible) Jesus would have to live a perfect life, meet the needs of others that came to him, and eventually face horrendous death by crucifixion. In all of this, Jesus remained calm and peaceful. Someone once asked Dallas Willard what one word he would use to describe the life of Jesus. What was that word? Relaxed.

Humility: Many years ago I read these words on the back of a shredded wheat box: 'Sometimes the best things in life are the simplest'. It was in reference to the only ingredient inside.... **100% whole wheat.** As we look at the life of Jesus Christ, we find something similar. His life was the best ever lived and yet there was a simplicity about it. One character ingredient that describes his life and teaching is this: **100% humility.** Jesus was born in humility.....a place where animals dwelt. Jesus grew up in humble circumstances, Nazareth was a rural village looked down upon and scorned. Jesus began his ministry in humility....in a desert area near the lowest place on earth. Jesus began his main teaching with these words....'Blessed are the poor in spirit'. Jesus lived a life of humility. He died in humility on a cross, a place of shame.

The garments of righteousness and praise are proper attire for us as we approach the throne of our Great King and God in prayer. They will be upon us forever and ever. God has given us other clothes that are strictly for this life. They are the armor of God. After your earthly life is over, the battles will be over and you can then leave your weapons behind.

I was at a conference a few years ago and during the lunch hour I sat with a couple of ladies who were authors. I heard one of the ladies tell the other that she was writing a book on spiritual warfare. She also mentioned that she spent two hours every morning putting on the armor of God. I refrained from expressing my opinion to her, but I thought to myself. 'Why do you take the armor off at night?' Ephesians 6:11 in the Greek says 'Put on once and for all' the full armor of God. It is a good idea to check your armor regularly, much like an airplane pilot goes through his checklist before take off. However, it should not take two hours, That time would be better employed actually using the armor! Dick Eastman, one of my mentors in prayer through his books and messages, suggests that our spiritual armor is actually prayer armor. After Paul goes through the pieces of armor in Ephesians 6:10-17, he gets to the prime use for it in verse 18. For a detailed look at the armor of God, go to the section on Kingdom Warfare

'Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayer and requests...'

I like the words that Shepherd's Grove congregation in Calif. confesses every Sunday:

I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry. I don't have to hurry. I can trust my friend Jesus and share his love with the world. - Bobby Schuller

john@jesusreigns.net