

ALL OUT WAR

Week 2 - Getting Dressed for the Right Occasion

A final word: Be strong with the Lord's mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil . . . Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness (Ephesians 6:10-11, 13-14).

Significance of the breastplate . . . **it protects a soldier's heart.**

Significance of righteousness . . . it protects a **believer's heart** and makes him/her more like Christ.

Righteousness means to be right (with God) and to do right (according to God).

BENEFITS OF WEARING THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

1 _____

He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor (Proverbs 21:21).

2 _____

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled (Matthew 5:6).

3 _____

The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever (Isaiah 32:17).

4 _____

. . . throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness—righteous, holy, and true (Ephesians 4:22-24).

LIVING RIGHTEOUSLY IN THE MIDST OF THE DAILY WAR

I must understand _____ for righteousness

- You are not righteous by nature (**Psalm 51**)
- You do not become righteous by being good
- You become righteous because of what Jesus did

But now God has shown us a different way of being right in his sight . . . We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done. For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet now, God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty . . . We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us (Romans 3:21-25).

I have a _____ toward UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

I cannot direct my own steps (**Prov. 14:12, Eph. 4:18, Jer 10:23**)

My natural man walks in futility and vanity (**Jer 10:2-16, Eccl. 1-3, 12:7,8**)

I must appreciate _____ of righteousness

_____ **righteousness:**

given free of charge without any effort on my part

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory (Romans 5:1-2).

_____ **righteousness:**

God's power working in me and my cooperation with God

All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him (2 Corinthians 3:18).

I must daily approach God's presence with _____

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it (Hebrews 4:16).

I must obey God's _____ for righteous living

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you...So, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation whatsoever to do what your sinful nature urges you to do (Romans 8:11-12).

...THE PURSUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- **DEMANDS** _____
- **DEMANDS** _____
- **DEMANDS** _____

I must regularly _____ if I'm wearing the breastplate of righteousness

For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom (Galatians 5:14).

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me (Psalm 51:10).

One Last Thought:

When we walk in righteousness . . . we can live _____

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