

The Armor of God- The Breastplate of Righteousness

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Battle Ready

Text: Ephesians 6:14

The first thing you would notice on a Roman soldier would be the breastplate. It was the most **visible** and prominent piece of his armor. It was beautiful and covered all the vital areas of his body in the front and the back. **Psalm 37:6** Righteous is who and what we are as a child of God. It speaks of being in a right relationship with God. Several times in Scripture, righteousness is described as armor and a breastplate. **2 Corinthians 6:7, Isaiah 59:17**

The Breastplate of Righteousness covers all the **vital** areas of our spiritual lives. The Amplified Bible calls it the ‘Breastplate of **integrity** and moral rectitude and right standing before God’. Because we have right standing with God, we not only have His favor, we are **walking** in favor. We are literally covered in favor.

Psalm 5:12, Psalm 30:5, Proverbs 3:33-35, Proverbs 3:1-4, Proverbs 22:1, Psalm 84:11

This piece of armor covers us so that we are in **correct** relationship with God. This integrity stems from the inner-man and reflects on the **outer** man. What is inside of us is meant to be seen in how we live.

Psalm 7:8-10, Psalm 26:1-3, Proverbs 11:3, Proverbs 20:7

- ❖ Many people use the Armor of God as a **pattern** of prayer. The Breastplate of Righteousness is a great opportunity to examine all of the vital areas of our life that Satan targets. We make them a purposeful target of prayer so that all of these things are in correct relationship with the will and purposes of God.
 - Ask the Lord to help you **protect** your heart. **Proverbs 4:23- Above all else guard your heart for out of it flows the issues of life.**
 - Pray over the issues you are dealing with in life; **need**, situations, your day, those things **on** your heart, (problems, requests).
 - Pray to have a heart like **David**; to be a man / woman after God’s own heart. **Acts 13:22**
 - Pray for those **close** to your heart, spouse, children, family and friends.
 - The heart is also the place of the affections, priorities and **desires**. **Colossians 3:2, Psalms 37:4, Matthew 6:21** What we enjoy. The issue is purity.
 - Ask for **wisdom** beyond your years and **experience**. Pray for the wisdom of Solomon. **Proverbs 8:13-14, Proverbs 9:10, James 1:5, James 3:13-18**
 - Ask for the **Fruit** of the Spirit to be evident in your life. **Galatians 5:22-25, Ephesians 5:8-9**

- Let **rivers** of living water flow from your life. **John 7:38**
- This is a good place to ask for **humility**, lay down your pride. **Psalm 25:9, Proverbs 11:2, Proverbs 29:23, Romans 12:16, Proverbs 15:33, Proverbs 22:4, 1 Peter 5:5**
- Seek to be filled with **compassion** and tenderness. **1 Peter 3:8-9, Hebrews 5:2**
Boldness without tenderness is abrasive. We need sympathy and caring for hurting and in need. **Mark 6:34**
- Reaffirm your **love** for God.
- Lay down the desires of the **flesh**. **Galatians 5:24**

A person who is not engaged in battle does not need to wear this type of armor. Remember the word ‘devil’ means someone who strikes again and again until they finally **penetrate**. He constantly assaults us with accusations meant to immobilize our mind and emotions. If we do not walk in righteousness or know that we are righteous then we will be wounded as his lying attacks breakthrough to the core of who you are. “You’re not really a Christian, you’re no good, God can’t use you. Look at what you have done and how you think. You are not good enough”.

Satan will fire arrow after arrow of **condemnation**; with the Breastplate of Righteousness in place we will not have to live with the allegations of guilt and shame. **Romans 8:1-2** Many in the body of Christ are walking in condemnation because they do not know who they are in Christ. The Word tells us to **stand** against the assaults of the devil with our shoulders back and our head held high. When we understand that we are righteous it affects our attitude. Remember, the breastplate was beautiful and shining and so are you and me.

Righteousness imparts **confidence** and authority. Can you imagine a beauty queen walking on stage with the confidence of a homeless lady or a four-star general taking direction like a mere private? People who do not know that they are righteous have a habit of walking in condemnation. The confidence that comes from being righteous leads to a life of **boldness**. Boldness looks different on people depending on their personality. **Proverbs 28:1** Those who are wicked and those who are walking in condemnation will often confuse our confidence with arrogance. We are simply a new creation in Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

A newly commissioned soldier does not walk or live the same way they did before they enlisted. They walk straighter with a **purpose** and with a knowledge that they are a part of something special. They have a new **attitude** and a new outlook. Attitude and state of mind have everything to do with how we perform in battle. If we are mentally and emotionally defeated before we go into the fight, then we should not engage the enemy because our negative attitude has already **determined** the outcome... you will be defeated.

~ Walter D. Wintle - *“If you think you are beaten, you are. If you think you dare not, you don't, if you like to win, but you think you can't It's almost a cinch you won't. If you think you'll lose, you've lost for out in the world we find, Success begins with a fellow's will, It's all in the state of mind. If you think you are outclassed, you are You've got to think high to rise, you've got to be sure of yourself before You can ever win a prize. Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or faster man, but sooner or later the man who wins Is the man who thinks he can!”*

When we know we are righteous, our attitude changes because we view ourselves through the work of the **cross**. We are no longer weak or infants. A well-prepared soldier is confident in who they are, and they are **skilled** in what they are called to do. **Hebrews 5:13-14** When we walk in righteousness and are skilled in the word of righteousness we can confidently and boldly face any enemy. **Isaiah 54:17**

It is vital that we know God has made us righteous. **Philippians 3:9-11, Romans 3:21-22** When a believer realizes the truth, that we are righteous and grab a hold of it firmly, we no longer view our selves as **little** or unimportant or defeated. This will move us from being a struggler to the realm of reigning and confidently and boldly living life. Too many Christians are living like they are unworthy. In ourselves we are, but in Christ we have been made worthy and He desires that we live like it. **1 John 5:13-15**

The word ‘confidence’ in the Greek is a word that portrays a man or woman who is so open and bold about things that they almost seem arrogant. An attitude of confidence affects our **prayer** life. **Hebrews 4:16** Righteousness allows us to pray bold, confident prayers. **James 5:16-18**

Righteousness is a **defensive** weapon. **Isaiah 61:10** This robe of righteousness cover from head to foot. Righteousness is not only who we are, it is our **covering**. **Isaiah 57:7-8** When righteousness is our covering, we do not have to fear what the devil or people can do to us. **Psalm 37:17** The righteous will always out last any attack that comes against them. **Proverbs 10:30, Psalm 112:6** The righteous will not be moved or removed.

Righteousness is an **offensive** weapon. Remember the Romans breastplate was shiny. When they would march in unison the glare and reflection off their armor could be seen from far away and was intimidating. When a soldier was locked in combat, he could use the armor to reflect the light and blind the enemy. When we walk in righteousness, we bring light into dark situations. When light comes in darkness **flees**. Evil forces always flee from righteousness.

Righteousness will also get you noticed. Brilliance is noticeable, confidence is noticeable. A lack of **fear** is noticeable. Righteousness is to be **seen**. **Psalm 37:6, Isaiah 58:8**