



Day 2 (9/28/23): Breastplate of Righteousness

A typical armed soldier wore a breastplate made of bronze or chain mail. It covered the vital organs, namely, the heart, and was fitted with loops or buckles that attached it to a thick belt. If the belt was loosened, the breastplate slipped right off. A breastplate is a piece of armor that would protect the heart of a soldier in battle. Your heart is the centerpiece of your soul.

The breastplate of righteousness refers to the righteousness purchased for us by Jesus at the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21). As we wear Christ's breastplate of righteousness, we begin to develop a purity of heart that translates into actions. The Holy Spirit takes up residence in us, allowing us to do what we cannot do in our own power. We go through the process of Sanctification by which we are molded by the Holy Spirit into the image of Christ Jesus. Wearing this breastplate creates a lifestyle of putting into practice what we believe in our hearts. As our lives become conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29), our choices become more righteous, and these godly choices also protect us from further temptation and deception (Proverbs 8:20; Psalm 23:3).

The Holy Spirit's job is to chip away at every thing that doesn't look like Jesus. He makes us aware of the condition of our heart to know whether our behaviors are aligned to God's truth. The enemy's goal is to derail the train of your behavior off of the tracks of God's truth.

In Ephesians 6:14, Paul says, "Your uniform is right living." Righteousness is upright living that aligns with the expectations of God. It is living according to the truth of God. We are instructed to "put on" this armor, which implies that we do not automatically wear it all the time. Putting on the armor of God requires a decision on our part. To put on the breastplate of righteousness, we must first have the belt of truth firmly in place. Without truth, our righteousness will be based upon our own attempts to impress God. This leads to legalism or self-condemnation (Romans 8:1). We choose instead to acknowledge that, apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5). His righteousness has been credited to our account.



Breastplate of Righteousness Scriptures

Eph. 6:14b with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

Matt. 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Rom. 1:17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Rom. 3:21-24 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Rom. 5:17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

What is God saying to you through His Word? What does it mean to have the breastplate of righteousness in place?

What is He calling you to confess? Acknowledge your sinfulness to Him and receive the gift of God’s abundant provision of grace and gift of Christ’s righteousness.

What do you want to ask God for so that righteousness might reign in your life through Christ?

Pray for the WWWC Board to live out of the gift of righteousness, being quick to repent and forgive one another. Ask God to reveal His righteous direction to the Board as they meet. Pray for the board members to experience sisterhood connection as they meet and for all WWWC sisters to grow in sisterhood. May a spirit of trust and truth permeate our relationships.