

Exercising Authority: Dressed for Success

Our feelings must give way to faith as we recognize He has clothed us with Himself!

Naked and Afraid

IN - His Image and Likeness

Genesis 1:26-27

New Living Translation

26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings[a] in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth,[b] and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

27 So God created human beings[c] in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

No evil, no fear, no shame

Genesis 2:25

New Living Translation

25 Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

- They had peace with God, nothing missing, nothing broken, clothed in goodness.

Naked and Afraid: Sin uncovers what goodness covered

Genesis 3:1-11

New Living Translation

The Man and Woman Sin

3 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

2 “Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. 3 “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”

4 “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. 5 “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

8 When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man[a] and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. 9 Then the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

10 He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”

11 “Who told you that you were naked?” the Lord God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”

Covered in Love

God is love and love covers

1 Peter 4:8

New Living Translation

8 Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Genesis 3:21

New Living Translation

21 And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

Show Us Your Glory

Many times when we're feeling naked and afraid it's right before God wants to do something glorious.

Exodus 33:12-23

New Living Translation

Moses Sees the Lord's Glory

12 One day Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Take these people up to the Promised Land.' But you haven't told me whom you will send with me. You have told me, 'I know you by name, and I look favorably on you.' 13 If it is true that you look favorably on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor. And remember that this nation is your very own people."

14 The Lord replied, "I will personally go with you, Moses, and I will give you rest—everything will be fine for you."

15 Then Moses said, "If you don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place. 16 How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don't go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth."

17 The Lord replied to Moses, "I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name."

18 Moses responded, "Then show me your glorious presence."

19 The Lord replied, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh,[a] before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose. 20 But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live." 21 The Lord continued, "Look, stand near me on this rock. 22 As my glorious presence passes by, I will hide you in the crevice of the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will remove my hand and let you see me from behind. But my face will not be seen."

Foolish, Powerless, Despised

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

New Living Translation

26 Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy[a] when God called you. 27 Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. 28 God chose things despised by the world,[b] things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. 29 As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

Jeremiah's Foolishness

Jeremiah 1:4-10

New Living Translation

Jeremiah's Call and First Visions

4 The Lord gave me this message:

5 "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb.
Before you were born I set you apart
and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."

6 "O Sovereign Lord," I said, "I can't speak for you! I'm too young!"

7 The Lord replied, "Don't say, 'I'm too young,' for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you. 8 And don't be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you. I, the Lord, have spoken!" 9 Then the Lord reached out and touched my mouth and said,

"Look, I have put my words in your mouth!

10 Today I appoint you to stand up
against nations and kingdoms.

Some you must uproot and tear down,
destroy and overthrow.

Others you must build up
and plant."

The Powerlessness of Elisha's Servant

2 Kings 6:15-17

New Living Translation

15 When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. **“Oh, sir, what will we do now?” the young man cried to Elisha.**

16 “Don’t be afraid!” Elisha told him. “For there are more on our side than on theirs!” 17 Then Elisha prayed, “O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!” **The Lord opened the young man’s eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.**

Gideon Despised

Judges 6:11-16

New Living Translation

11 Then the angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. 12 The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, “Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!”

13 “Sir,” Gideon replied, “if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn’t they say, ‘The Lord brought us up out of Egypt’? But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites.”

14 Then the Lord turned to him and said, “Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!”

15 “But Lord,” Gideon replied, “how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!”

16 The Lord said to him, **“I will be with you.** And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man.”

Shout and Shout Louder

Adam hid his nakedness from God in fear. But this man shouted and shouted louder because blindness had left him naked and afraid.

Luke 18:35-43

New Living Translation

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar

35 As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind beggar was sitting beside the road. 36 When he heard the noise of a crowd going past, he asked what was happening. 37 They told him that Jesus the Nazarene[a] was going by. 38 So he began shouting, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

39 “Be quiet!” the people in front yelled at him.

But he only shouted louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

40 When Jesus heard him, he stopped and ordered that the man be brought to him. As the man came near, Jesus asked him, 41 “What do you want me to do for you?”

“Lord,” he said, “I want to see!”

42 And Jesus said, “All right, receive your sight! Your faith has healed you.” 43 Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus, praising God. And all who saw it praised God, too.

Clothed with Power

Luke 24:49

New King James Version

49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city [a]of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

Rejecting Other Armor

1 Samuel 17:37-40

New International Version

37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

Psalms 51:11

New Living Translation

11 Do not banish me from your presence,
and don’t take your Holy Spirit[a] from me.

Dressed by the Best

Isaiah 61:10

New Living Translation

10 I am overwhelmed with joy in the Lord my God!
For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation
and draped me in a robe of righteousness.
I am like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding
or a bride with her jewels.

