

# ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

## SECTION 11 – The Armor of God & Spiritual Warfare

### Lesson 44 - The Armor of God Part 4

#### **Breastplate of Righteousness** - continued

Holiness protects us, and holiness empowers us.

**Romans 1:4** *and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*

Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power in accordance with the Spirit of holiness. That holiness empowers us with the very power of God, the very nature of God.

**Matthew 5:6** *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

There are many people that go to meetings to get filled and hands laid on them, but by the time they get to the back door they done leaked all over the place. They're not living a righteous life. God said we are to hunger for righteousness, hunger for holiness, pursue and thirst and hunger for righteousness and holiness. How many of us honestly hunger to be righteous? How many of us are hungry and thirsty for holiness?

Most people in the church are hungry and thirsty for the blessing, for power, for riches, and for all these other things. But God said if you'll hunger and thirst for righteousness, for holiness that's what's going to release the power. That's what's going to cause you to become filled with His Spirit. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be filled.

**Matthew 6:33** *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

The context here is He's talking about stuff. He says to not worry about what you'll eat, don't worry about where you're going to sleep, don't worry about the food, don't worry about the clothing, don't worry about the roof over your head, or the other necessities of life. He said you don't need to seek those things for your Father knows that you need those things. Seek holiness and righteousness, and the Father will make sure all these things are added unto you.

#### **How do we get our basic needs met?**

The Bible says that if you want your needs met, live righteous.

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I teach strongly on giving and receiving. I believe powerfully in sowing. I live a life of sowing, and sowing aggressively; and sowing big seeds; and sowing for breakthroughs. But let me tell you something. You don't sow to get your basic needs meet. We like the idea of giving an offering because it's easier to try to get through the sacrifice of an offering what we're suppose to get through obedience of righteousness. But God says obedience is better than sacrifice. (1 Samuel 15:22) God loves our obedience; the sacrifice doesn't impress Him. He desires our obedience. Seek ye first the righteousness of God, seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

**Proverbs 11:10-11AMP** *When it goes well with the [uncompromisingly] righteous, the city rejoices, but when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.*

*11 By the blessing of the influence of the upright and God's favor [because of them] the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.*

God is saying that when the righteous are living righteous, when the Godly are living Godly, when His people are pursuing holiness, then everybody in the city prospers.

**2 Chronicles 7:14** *if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Part of the problem we're having today, and one of the reasons there's so much judgment, and one of the reasons we're wrestling with what we are in America even though we have a higher percentage of people going to church than almost any nation in the world one; one of the reasons we're battling is because God's people are the ones living wicked. If God's people will live righteous, if God's people will pursue holiness, God would hear from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal our land.

**2 Chronicles 7:13** *When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people,*

When we go back and look at this verse we see that God said He shut up the heavens that there be no rain. He sent all kinds of pestilence and plagues upon the land. Then if His people which are call by His name will humble themselves and pray He will heal the land. God will send judgment to the land and allow these things to come on the land because His people aren't living right.

You may not believe God will do that, but look at Jonah. All those poor innocent guys in the boat. They weren't doing anything wrong, but they suffered through the storm because Jonah was in rebellion. I'm telling you in the name of Jesus, one of the reasons some of our schools are a mess is because children and/or teachers in those schools are not living righteous, are not preaching truth, and are not standing for holiness. Judgment has fallen on the school because of God's people that are in rebellion.

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### What can we learn about the power of righteousness from the story of Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah?

Righteousness has the power to turn it all around. The power of a few righteous can rescue a city from wickedness, as in the story of Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah.

Two angels and the Lord appear to Abraham on the way to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, had a conversation with Abraham, and God stayed with him and the 2 angels went on to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. God spoke to Abraham and told him what He was going to do. Abraham begin to plead and ask, “If there are 50 righteous, will you spare?” God said, “Yes.” Abraham kept asking till he got to 10. God was willing to spare the cities for only 10 righteous. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah literally had over two hundred thousand people, and God was willing to spare two hundred thousand wicked people from judgment for just 10 righteous. Ten righteous people pursuing righteousness, pursuing holiness, living righteous and preaching righteousness could turn a whole city of two hundred thousand away from their wickedness and back to God. But God couldn’t even find 10.

Holiness is powerful! That’s why the devil fights it. That’s why the devil wants to shame you and keep you from pursuing holiness and preaching holiness. Through this discipleship courses you are receiving revelation to stand up against that assault.

Holiness literally means holy unto the Lord. It literally means holy continually unto God.

**John 17:21-23** *they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*

God has called us to walk in a realm of Christ-likeness. We’ve been predestined by God to be conformed into His image; His exact likeness. Scriptures says the standard and the height of Christ own perfection is what He called us to walk in. He called us to be just like Him. People say it’s not possible that we could walk like Jesus. Not only is it possible, but God has made the way. He’s going to pour out an end-time manifestation of the Spirit of holiness to empower His church.

I had a vision and I saw four angels. The first angel that appeared had a banner down its front which said “Purity”. He had in one hand a shield of faith and in the other hand a sword. He said the shield has been given to protect the minds of God’s people from the vile thoughts of the enemy, and the sword is to pierce their hearts to the deepest of conviction. The Lord spoke to me and said he has come to bring holiness back to the church. God is going to release the spirit of holiness back upon His people. God put inside of us when we got born again an incredible supernatural element that will give us the ability to walk as Jesus.

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**1 John 3:9** *Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.*

He says that whoever has been born of God does not sin. As we discussed before, whoever is born of God does not habitually, knowingly, deliberately practice rejecting God's legal right of authority because God's seed remains in him.

**1 Peter 1:23** *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.*

We have been born again not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible. Inside of the seed is all the genetic code, all the information that is necessary to reproduce an exact duplicate of the original. We have these beautiful oak trees that produce acorns. Inside of that acorn, which is a very large seed, is all of the genetic code, all the information, needed to produce an exact duplicate of the original oak. God says He has put inside of us the seed of His Son, and in the seed that He put in us is all the spiritual genetic code to reproduce inside of us an exact duplicate of the original, which is Jesus. We have been predestined by God to be confirmed into His image. God put His seed inside of us; the divine seed, the divine sperm. He put it inside of us and all the genetic code, all the spiritual information that's needed to reproduce us after the image of God and His holiness, which is the image of righteousness, all that is already in us right now. The image of God, the seed of holiness, the seed of righteousness is inside of the spirit of every born again believer.

**Ephesians 4:22-24** *that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

The battlefield is in the mind; in the spirit of the mind. He says you now have the authority, you now have access, you now have the right to put on the righteousness, the holiness, the true nature of God. You have to put off the old man for the renewing of the spirit of the mind. You have to go into this realm of spiritual warfare through the armor of God and allow the righteousness of God, the holiness of God, to penetrate your mind, to cleanse your mind, to purify your mind, to renew you in the spirit of your mind. You can take on the very nature of God.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Stop telling me you can't live holy. Stop telling me you can't live righteous. Jesus who knew no sin, was made to be sin that we might literally take on the equity of the character of the righteousness of God, which is Christ Jesus. God is going to release a new level of the Spirit of holiness of God in the church and He is going to come back for a church without spot or blemish. He's coming back for a church that's holy.

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**John 12:24** *Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.*

**What happens to the seed of God that is inside every believer?**

The seed that's born inside every believer, the seed that's the nature and image of Christ, is going to break forth when we die to our will, our ways, our attitudes, and to self.

John the Baptist said in **John 3:30** *He must increase, but I must decrease.*

**Luke 9:23** *Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*

**Galatians 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

When we are crucified with Christ it gives room for the seed to grow up. It gives room for the seed of Christ to take over so that it is now no longer us who lives, but it's Christ who lives in us. We are to be slaves of righteousness. We're to die to our own ways, our own wills, our own desires. We're to die to our worldly flesh. We're to die to the lust of the flesh and to the lust of the eyes. We are to die to those things. He's given us the power to die.

He said it's reasonable, just, and what should be expected for you to lay down your life as a living sacrifice.

**Romans 12:1-2** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

That word transformed comes from the Greek word metamorpho. It's where we get the word metamorphosis from. It literally means to be totally transformed. Metamorphosis is when a caterpillar goes into the cocoon and comes out as a butterfly. The butterfly is not just a skinny caterpillar with wings. When that caterpillar goes in, everything that caterpillar was ceases to exist. The heart ceases to exist. The caterpillar's brain ceases to exist. The caterpillar's circulatory system ceases to exist. Everything ceases to exist, and the genetic code inside the caterpillar to create a butterfly takes over. A whole new creature comes forth.

God said if any man be in Christ Jesus he is a new creation in the metamorphosis process. In the metamorphosis process the butterfly has a new heart, a new brain, a new circulatory system. The

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butterfly has new everything. Did not Jesus say, “I will give you a new heart.”? (Ezekiel 36:26) Did not Jesus say, “Let his mind be in you which is also in Christ Jesus.”? (Philippians 2:5) We are being made totally, brand new. A metamorphosis process takes place as we behold Him in His glory, as we gaze upon Him in His wonder, as we look upon Jesus, as we pursue holiness. Without holiness you will not see Him.

**2 Corinthians 3:18 AMP** *And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.*

As we pursue righteousness God will open our eyes to see Jesus, and as we see Jesus we're transformed into His image. We take on more and more of His nature. We take on more and more of His holiness. As we walk in that greater degree of holiness, He opens our eyes more, then we see more of Him and we take on more of His nature. Then as we walk in that greater nature He opens our eyes more. It's a progressive glory to glory to glory. We're going to be changed into the image of God. We're going to take on His nature. We're going to walk in the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus; in His holiness! This will be the banner upon which the end-time army marches. Don't you dare go out and fight the devil without being passionate in pursuing the righteousness and holiness of God.

**1 Peter 1:15-16** *But as the One Who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all your conduct and manner of living. 16 For it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.*

It's a command. Walk it. As you walk it, then and only then, can you put on the breastplate of righteousness.

#### **For Further Study:**

**Romans 6:13:** *And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*

**2 Corinthians 5:21:** *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

**1 Timothy 6:11:** *But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness*