

Walking in the Fullness of God Part 2

Shaun Rost

Last Week we talked about

“Walking In The Fullness of God”

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in HIM we would become the righteousness of God.

Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written: “But the righteous one will live by faith.”

Jesus died to set us free from sin, so that we can become the righteousness of God to live by faith.

This is a state of being, not a place we go to from time to time.

You are the righteousness of God, who live by faith!

Now you are in the righteousness of Christ you know who you are in Him, you are IN-CHRISTED in Him by your faith.

So how do we walk as IN-CHRISTED people?

When you come from being in Christ you are coming from blessings....

When you are IN-CHRISTED, You Are...

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1. Blessed with every spiritual blessing (v. 3)
2. Chosen to be holy and without blame (v. 4)
3. Predestined (v. 5)
4. Adopted as sons (v. 5)
5. Accepted in the Beloved (v. 6)
6. Redeemed through His blood, according to the riches of His grace (v. 7)
7. Forgiven of your sins (v. 7)
8. Given wisdom and understanding of His will (v. 8-9)
9. Given an inheritance (v. 11)
10. To bring praise and glory to God (v. 12)
11. Sealed with the Holy Spirit (v. 13)
12. Guaranteed of inheritance until your redemption is fulfilled (v. 14)

I just listed 12 incredible truths that comes from the fullness of being in a relationship with God. Through this powerful fellowship is were we really encounter the love of God.

Today I want to focus on the Armor of God!

Ephesians 6 gives the most detailed explanation and mention of the whole armor of God in the Bible.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 also mentions 2 of the pieces of the armor: the *breastplate of faith and love* and the *helmet of the hope of salvation*.

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Romans 13:12 says to put on the armor of light.

*In this scripture, to put on the armor of light is to “**put on the Lord Jesus Christ**”*

Romans 13:14 say's to live as He calls you to live.

What we can take away from this is that the importance of the armor of God is not so much in the analogy of the armor, but in what each part does.

In other words, the main point is not that the breastplate is righteousness as in Ephesians or it's faith and love in 1 Thessalonians.

The point is that righteousness is important as well as faith and love.

The main point of the armor is not the analogy of the individual pieces but the reality and power of the spiritual weapons God has given you.

*Isaiah 59:17 He put on righteousness like a breastplate,
And a helmet of salvation on His head;
And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing
And wrapped Himself with zeal as a cloak.*

Isaiah 59:17 just described the Lord putting on 2 of the pieces of the armor we see in Ephesians 6

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Righteousness as a breastplate and a helmet of salvation on His head.

So why is the **armor of God** called that in the Bible?

It's not just because it comes from God, but it *is* God's.

He gives you *His* armor to wear. It's actually what He wears.

It's not an armor that man can make up. It's God's armor.

You're not trying to resist temptation in your own strength or will-power. It's all in God's strength.

What Are the 6 Pieces of the Armor of God?

In Ephesians 6, the 6 pieces of the armor of God are:

1. Belt of truth
2. Breastplate of righteousness
3. Shoes – readiness of the Gospel of peace
4. Shield of faith
5. Helmet of salvation
6. Sword of the Spirit

Now, let's look at each piece of the armor of God in more detail.

What Is the Belt in the Armor of God?

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The **belt of truth** is the first piece of the armor of God that's mentioned in Ephesians 6.

Some Bible scholars explain that the belt keeps all the pieces of the armor together.

Other say that the belt in the Roman armor provides support to the soldier like a weight-lifter might wear a belt to reduce stress on his back.

The main point of the belt is not the part of the armor that it's associated with. That's the analogy.

The point is that we need to live in truth.

To put on the belt of truth means to put your full trust in God's truth and in what He says.

It means that you value God's truth more than the lies that the Accuser might whisper or shout in your ear.

Will you believe what God says about you or will you believe the Devil, the deceiver?

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

You put on the belt of truth when you say: "I'm not trusting in the lies of the enemy."

I believe all that the Bible says about what Jesus did for me.”

Ephesians 1:3 says that God has given you every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. It says that you've been raised with Christ and seated with Him. It says that you've been chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, and sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Andrew mentioned being sealed with the Holy Spirit this past weekend and sealed means that you are a three part being Spirit, soul, and body.

Your spirit is sealed and sin cannot affect it at all! Sin does affect the spirit and soul but not your spirit, in fact your spirit is the same here on earth as it is in heaven.

Putting on the belt of truth means choosing to trust what God has done for you more than how you might feel at the moment.

Are you wondering if God still loves you? Instead of looking to yourself or listening to the lies of the Accuser, choose to look at the cross, where Jesus died for you. It's where God's love was fully displayed for you.

It's the constant, where Jesus, the Truth (John 14:6) died for you.

Are you feeling the weight of guilt and shame because you fell into the same sin again?

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Will you choose to believe that God accepts you and likes you because of what Jesus has already done for you?

Will you trust in God's love for you because Jesus has already paid the price of the penalty of your sin?

Will you believe God's truth?

If you believe God's truth, then you'll be able to stand against the wiles of the enemy.

It'll be like a belt that supports you so that you can stand.

Jim Baker said this in the old testament the priest looked at the lamb not the person for blemish. In the new testament God looks at the Lamb of God not the person for blemish.

Blemish is sin. God is looking and the finished work of Christ for sin in your life, NOT you. That is the belt of truth!

What Does the Breastplate of Righteousness Mean?

The breastplate of righteousness is what protects the core of your being from every spiritual attack.

The breastplate covers what's closest to your heart.

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It affects whether you walk in confidence as someone who is sure that God loves them.

It affects how you feel about yourself at the heart-level.

Are you trying to earn God's favor in your life?

You put on the breastplate of righteousness by trusting in what God has done for you in Jesus.

Righteousness, is the fact that you are good enough to be received by God

Righteousness is a gift that's given to you, not something that you could ever earn on your own.

Romans 5:17

For if by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

If you read it like this

*For if by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the **free gift of righteousness** reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

You put on the breastplate of righteousness when you can say:

“I don’t have to trust my own goodness. I trust Jesus to be righteous for me.”

God accepts you and enjoys you because of what Jesus did.

Let me say that again God enjoys you.....

To put on the breastplate of righteousness means to believe what Ephesians 1:4-6 says about you.

You have been chosen by God to be holy and without blame before Him in love, you’ve been predestined to be adopted by God, you are fully accepted by God through His Beloved, Jesus.

What Does Feet Shod With the Gospel of Peace Mean?

In Ephesians 6, the armor of God includes covers for the feet. A modern equivalent would be shoes or sandals.

It’s described **as the preparation or readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace.**

As part of the armor of God that helps you stand against any spiritual attack, it’s an important piece.

1 Peter 3:15

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but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect;

*The ESV Version says But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **being prepared!***

This means that you can always be prepared to take the message of God's peace to the people around you.

God has gone to the utmost to reconcile us to Himself through Christ (2 Cor. 5:18). You are now His ambassador. You are the salt and light of the world.

The shoes are of peace because God's peace is made available to people through what Jesus, the Prince of Peace did on the cross in dying for sin.

The Gospel, or Good News, is that the sin that separated people from God has been paid for by Jesus.

Through faith in Christ and receiving this gracious gift of God, there can be peace and reconciliation with God.

Why is this part of the armor of God?

It's there as an encouragement so that even when times get tough, you can always share the message of God's love with people.

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Even through times of discouragement or even persecution, you can stand and do God's will.

You can tell people about the Good News of Jesus, the Gospel of Peace.

You put on the preparation or readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace when you say:

“Lord, I’m ready to go whenever, wherever You call.”

What Does the Shield of Faith Mean?

The shield of faith is the part of the full armor of God that protects you from the flaming darts of the enemy.

Faith is an important part of your relationship with God.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and that He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him.

It's impossible to please God without faith.

Faith is how you start in your walk with God, by believing in Jesus.

Faith is also how you progress in spiritual growth.

Faith is what will help you keep standing until the end, when you stand before Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:2).

To take up the shield of faith means to put your personal trust in God in every circumstance.

It means putting your faith in God's power, His will, and His desire to bring it about in the world and in your life.

You take up the shield of faith when you choose to trust in God more than anything else.

God alone is able to forgive you, save you, and finish the work that He began in you.

When the enemy attacks, it'll be to try to shake your faith and trust in God.

He will come to shake your trust in God's Word, in His Love for You, and in His plans for your life. He comes to shake your confidence in God.

Your feelings and your mind can change but when you choose to take up the shield of faith, **you grasp firmly to the unchanging God, Who is the source of all that is good (James 1:17).**

You know every since I married the most wonderful and beautiful lady in all the land, Darlene's single friends have called to inquire how she is doing and how the marriage is

going. One of these ladies asked this question is it the real deal?

What she was really asking was, after waiting 50 years and putting all of your faith and trust in the Lord, is it really real?

After all the prayers, declarations, acts of faith, walking away from the wrong men, believing when God said I have that person for you.

Is it REAL.....

What Is the Helmet of Salvation in the Bible?

The helmet of salvation is part of the spiritual armor that points to the truth that God is the One who saves and delivers.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 also describes this piece of the whole armor of God as **the helmet of hope of salvation.**

In Isaiah 59:17, the Lord puts on the helmet of salvation.

This means that He is the one who saves and delivers.

The world is in a state of brokenness. Darkness will continue to increase until Jesus returns.

But, you can have a hope in God's salvation that will help you stand through any trouble in this life.

This is the same helmet that you're invited to put on.

It's God's armor.

God is the One who brings salvation to the world. Jesus' very name means "the Lord Saves."

The helmet of salvation brings protection to your mind and brings hope no matter what happens in this life.

We are on Day 12 of our "Negativity Fast Positivity Feast" with Steve Backlund

Steve's ministry Igniting Hope is based right here in the armor of God. The helmet of salvation is the piece of armor that keeps us in Hope!

The Good News of Jesus brings real hope.

The Gospel is not only that Jesus died and was buried.

He also rose again. And Jesus will return again at the end of this age to bring God's Kingdom fully on the earth (Revelation 21-22).

Salvation is not only about going to heaven when you die. It's about God making all things new when Jesus returns (Rev. 21:5).

You put on this helmet of salvation when you put your hope fully in God.

Look to the One who started the work of redemption and will one day complete it.

What Is the Sword of the Spirit in the Armor of God?

Ephesians 6 concludes the list of spiritual armor with the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 also describes the word of God as a two-edged sword.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

The word of God brings truth and freedom to the very core of your being.

It's a weapon that can be used to destroy the crafty works of darkness.

Jesus used the word as a sword three times in Matthew 4:1-11.

Jesus countered every temptation from the Devil with the Word.

Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God.'"

As you commit to read and obey God's Word, you are using the sword of the Spirit.

Let God bring freedom and deliverance to your mind and to the core of your being.

You use the sword of the Spirit by engaging with the Word of God and committing to follow all that Jesus commands.

What Does It Mean to Pray in the Spirit on All Occasions?

To pray in the Spirit on all occasions is to engage your heart with God at the deepest level of your heart.

It's prayer from the depths of your spirit empowered by the Holy Spirit.

It's prayer that is ongoing, *on all occasions*.

The Holy Spirit's role is to take of the things that belong to Christ and make them known to you (John 16:14).

So in order to put on the full armor of God, the ministry of the Holy Spirit is essential.

Praying in the Spirit is not mentioned as one of the 6 pieces of the full armor of God, but it flows out of putting on the armor of God.

After you've put on the full armor of God, it naturally follows that you'll be praying in the Spirit.

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Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, *and* pray in the Spirit.

It's not prayer just on the surface, of simply asking God for stuff.

Praying in the Spirit is an ongoing communion with God.

It's a longing to know His heart and mind.

This is Paul's prayer in Eph. 1:17-23, that God would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that you might know Him more.

Paul explains that praying in tongues is to pray with your spirit and brings benefit personally.

Jude also explains that praying in the Holy Spirit is related to being built up in your faith.

Jude 1:20

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

What does stand firm mean in the Bible?

Ephesians 6 gives the exhortation to "stand" 3 times, in verses 11, 13 and 14.

To *stand firm* means to resist and overcome the schemes of the devil (Eph. 6:11).

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You can **stand firm** because you've already been seated with Him (Eph. 1-2) and are walking according to His word (Eph. 4-6).

Putting on the whole armor of God is not asking God to make the battle stop.

It's standing in the victory of Jesus on the Cross and applying it to your daily life.

The Bible says that there will be tensions, tribulations, and even persecution in the days ahead before Jesus returns (Matt. 24:9-24).

So keep standing firm by keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus and His glorious leadership.

He has overcome the world!

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."

Putting on and walking in Gods Armor is the manifested revelation of living in the fullness of God!