

## Ephesians

### The Armor Of God: The Breastplate Of Righteousness And Shoes From The Gospel Of Peace

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV) – Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

<sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

### The Breastplate of Righteousness

#### Three types of righteousness in the New Testament:

##### 1) Self-righteousness

Luke 18:9-14 (NLT) - Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: <sup>10</sup> "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.'" <sup>13</sup> "But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.'<sup>14</sup> I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

##### 2) Imputed righteousness

This means that Jesus gave us his righteousness and took our sins in exchange.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

##### 3) Practical righteousness

#### What does this look like?

##### • Moral obedience

Romans 6:12-14 (NLT) - Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. <sup>13</sup> Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. <sup>14</sup> Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

##### • Relational obedience

John 13:34-35 (NIV) – Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV) - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

##### • Private obedience

Philippians 4:8 (NLT) - Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

### Shoes Fitted With The Readiness That Comes From The Gospel Of Peace

#### The gospel of peace is the truth that in Christ we are now at peace with God and are His children.

Romans 5:1-2 (NLT) - Since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. <sup>2</sup> Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

#### •The gospel of peace give us two things:

##### 1) Confidence that God is with us

Romans 8:35-39 (NLT)

##### 2) Confidence that God will fight for us

Psalms 28:7 (NIV) - The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.