

## The Armour Series: Week 3 Devotions

In week 3 of the Armour Series we explored the Breastplate of Righteousness.

### Day One

#### Read:

"God made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we may be the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

#### Explore:

It's so epic, God is all about relationships, He really wants to be in relationship with us, He intended for us to be in perfect harmony with Him. In 2 Corinthians 5:21 we see that the God we serve is holy, He is good, He is perfect, He is pure and sin cannot exist in His presence. Sadly this meant that because we sinned there was a separation between us and God and there was absolutely nothing that could reconnect us with our Father. This is why He decided to sacrifice His only son, His righteous son, Jesus, so that you and I may be the righteousness of God! It's so cool that we get to be the righteousness of God, as believers! Tomorrow we'll unpack more about what it means to be righteous in Christ. Tonight I want you to celebrate and think about how amazing it is that we get to be righteous and have a relationship with our Heavenly Father, because of what Jesus did for us! I think it's absolutely incredible!!

#### Pray:

Dear Lord, thank you for this wonderful day, and the chance to celebrate your goodness. Lord God we ask that you help us realise how privileged we are to be righteous through You. We admit that there's nothing we can do in ourselves to become righteous, and so we yield ourselves before you, allowing You to take control of our lives. We love you lord, and can't stop thanking you enough for your goodness! In Jesus' name, Amen!

### Day Two

#### Reflection:

We learnt yesterday that Christ is the foundation of your righteous standing before God. If you are wearing the breastplate, know that your heart and your emotions, are securely guarded against attack. One kind of attack that we often face as Christians, is that we feel we are unworthy of God. The way to face this attack is to put on the breastplate of righteousness. With the breastplate, you don't stand on your own, you rely on Him.

#### Read:

"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me." (1 Corinthians 15:10)

#### Explore:

Paul used this breastplate of righteousness when he was under pressure, discouraged and defeated. His background was anti-Christian, and he could never get away from that completely. He had been extremely violent, a brutal persecutor of people in the church. He must constantly have run across families with loved ones whom he had murdered. He had such reason to be discouraged and feel unrighteous, yet he rather relied on the, "Grace of God," (1 Corinthians 15: 10). Paul used the breastplate of righteousness. He wasn't concerned with what he had been, he simply said that, by the grace of God, he is who he is. He didn't stand on his own righteousness, but God's. Think about where you may be relying on your own strength, and why not rather give that to Christ.

#### Pray:

Dear Lord, may what I've learnt today meet me right where I am, help me be more like Paul and rely on the Grace of God and his righteousness. Lift up my heart by the idea that Christ is my righteousness. Thank you father for blessing me today, I love you lord, Amen.

## **Day Three**

### Read:

But he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward, (Proverbs 11:18b).

### Explore:

A great way to live our lives is by pursuing righteousness. We need to strive to be holy, because we are God's children! We can be Holy with our thoughts, so that all we think about is appropriate as children of God. We can be Holy with our actions, so that our lives show that we serve a holy God. Lastly, we can be Holy in our integrity, so that we are honest and true in all our relationships.

### Reflect:

Are you taking God's righteousness in your life for granted? I think it's so cool that Jesus said if we seek first God and His righteousness, everything else will follow ( Matt. 6:33). How cool right? There are epic rewards for seeking righteousness! How are you putting righteousness in your mind so that your thoughts are holy? How are you displaying righteousness in your relationships so that you keep your integrity? Are you displaying righteousness in your activities so that your life shows the holiness of God?

### Prayer:

Thank you Lord for this amazing day, thank you for watching over me. Help me not to take your righteousness for granted, but to constantly seek to sow seeds of righteousness in my thoughts, actions and my integrity. I love you Lord, amen.

## **Day Four**

### Read:

Read: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled," (Matthew 5:6)

### Reflect:

I don't know about you, but I really like food, like a lot! If I don't eat I get really really hungry. When I'm hungry, I'm absolutely craving food, I'm desperate for it! Do you hunger for righteousness the same way you hunger for a great juicy burger or pizza? We will be blessed if we passionately desire a righteous life. If we are hungering and thirsting for righteousness it's almost like thirsting for God himself. That is what the psalmist was describing when he said, "As the deer pants for the water, so my soul pants for You, O God (Psalm 42:1). Our hunger for God is determined by our thoughts and actions. As you continue the rest of your week, will you make time for the Word of God, for prayer and for worship? Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

### Application:

Do you hunger for God's best for you? If you do, then you will take practical steps to hunger for righteousness daily. 🙏

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for this lovely day, and the amazing rain! Help me to hunger for righteousness every day, by spending time in Your word, by praying and by worshipping You! I love you Lord, Amen!

## Day Five

Read:

"15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:15-23)

Apply:

Now read the passage again and look for (1) A Sin to avoid, (2) A Promise to claim, (3) An Example to follow, (4) A Command to obey, and finally (5) a piece of Knowledge to gain.

Try putting on righteousness. Let us give God our whole hearts, and live every day continually drawing closer to Him. God is not expecting perfection from us. He just wants our hearts.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for this amazing day, we praise You for giving us the breastplate of righteousness to guard our hearts. Keep our hearts filled with Your love. Help us to get rid of things of our flesh, and to live by Your Spirit in holiness. We joyfully wear Your righteousness through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen!

## Day Six

Read:

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:31-33 NIV)

Discussion:

As this week comes to an end, God wants you to be conscious of your everlasting righteousness in Christ. He wants you to be very strongly established in what Jesus has done for you. So I would like to encourage you to take a moment right now to think and pray about your righteousness in Christ. When you are conscious of your righteousness in Christ, it will put courage in your heart and bring an unshakable peace to your soul. It will make your faith grow when you pray and give you a huge expectation to receive epic blessings from your God. This is why we don't need to worry

about our provision. We are to seek first “righteousness”—the righteousness that Christ has given us—and all the things that we need will be added to us.

Pray:

Thank you Lord for your righteousness. Thank you for this week of learning, and help us to continue hungering for more. Dear lord Jesus, help me to know that all I need is taken care of. I come to you expectant for what’s in store for this next week. Lord bless us and keep us safe, in Jesus’ name, Amen.