

THE ARMOUR AND FORCE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

(Christian Renewal Fellowship - 8/10/89 - EKB)

1. Righteousness is right standing before God. It means to be forgiven, “justified”, declared righteous and not guilty in God’s sight.
2. Righteousness is a powerful armour and a mighty force.
3. In its effect righteousness is **freedom from** heaviness, oppression, guilt, condemnation, unworthiness, doubt, unbelief, confusion, and uncertainty.

Righteousness shows its presence by peace, quietness, assurance, confidence and boldness, *Is 32:17,18, Rom 5:1, Jam 3:18*. In righteousness there is a sense of wholeness, salvation, joy in the Lord, and liberty, *Rom 14:17*.

4. Righteousness is the result of faith in Jesus Christ. By faith we are “justified” or declared to be righteous. *Gal 2:16, Rom 5:9,5:17,4:1-5, Rom 3:20-24, Phil 3:9, 2Cor 5:21, Jer 23:6, Is 54:17,61:10, Gen 15:6, 1Cor 1:30*. The moment one repents, surrenders his life to Jesus as Lord, receives Him as Saviour, God declares him to be “justified” or in righteous standing before Him. God declares such a one to be forgiven, accepted, and declared not guilty.

5. *Eph 6:14* instructs us to put on the breastplate of righteousness as spiritual armour. *1Thes 5:8* tells us that this breastplate is **faith and love**. *Gal 5:6* says that faith works by love.

Our right standing before God, (our righteousness), is maintained intact, and expressed in our behaviour through faith and love.

- a. By believing in God and His Word.
- b. By actively seeking the highest good of others.

1Jn 3:20-23 tells us that God answers our prayers when we are walking in obedience to His commandments, and are doing those things that are pleasing in His sight, *v22*. *verse 23* says that His commands are that we should believe in the Name of His Son Jesus Christ, and **love one another** as He gave us commandment, *Jn 13:34,35*. This is seeking His righteousness, *Mat 6:33b*.

6. As we maintain faith and love we maintain our breastplate of righteousness and this is a tremendous force and power against all evil attack by satan and man.
7. Recently while visiting friends, I sat by passively when one person belittled another believer’s strong faith and stand for God and without realising it I came under a heavy cloud of oppression, unbelief, confusion, heaviness, negativity and weakness spiritually. “Silence gives consent”. We must speak up the truth in love. After three days of battling this situation I started to confess *Is 54:17* which says, “No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that rises against you in judgment you shall condemn (refute) it, this is the heritage of the saints and their righteousness is of Me says the Lord”. As I refuted the unbelieving negative words I had heard, and confessed Jesus Christ as my total righteousness, the heavy cloud of oppression lifted immediately, and I was released to praise and rejoicing in God. I had lost the breastplate of righteousness.
8. Some other ways we can lose our breastplate of righteousness.

- a. Accepting a thought from satan of failure, hopelessness, guilt, uselessness, condemnation. Perhaps we have heard of someone greatly used of God, or blessed, and as we compare ourselves we feel a failure. The result is probably heaviness, despair, confusion, oppression and loss of joy.
 - b. Sometimes by being friendly and showing acceptance and love to someone who is standing in judgment and condemnation of you. They may also be praying negatively, or directively about you as well, asking God to punish you or get you to do what they want. God does not answer these prayers, but if we are not aware of what is happening satanic spirits use them to attack us. The result of this is the same heaviness and oppression.
 - c. Perhaps someone has come at you in an open attack of bitterness, resentment, judgment, condemnation and you have kept cool and calm, replied weakly, may even have apologised just in case you had done something amiss, even when you knew you had not done anything specifically wrong. Your response should have been, "I do not accept what you are saying. I have acted sincerely before God in faith and love!"
The result is again the same.
(Sure if we are aware of sin or failure then we need to apologise, seek cleansing from God by the Blood of Jesus, and immediately regain our breastplate of righteousness.)
9. To know our righteousness in Christ and to hold onto it and to confess it, is a mighty force and armour of protection, keeping us in peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
10. **Remedy:** What to do when you have lost your breastplate of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- a. Try and identify **when** it started.
 - b. **What** happened at the time?
 - c. **Identify** the reason, the situation, the cause.
 - d. **Forgive** the persons responsible - that is release them from your condemnation and judgment, hand the problem over to God. Receive cleansing and forgiveness for yourself.
 - e. **Confess** the power and working of the Blood of Jesus to redeem, cleanse, justify, sanctify. *1Pet 1:18,19, 1Jn 1:7, Rom 5:9, Heb 13:12.*
 - f. **Bind and break** every spirit of condemnation.
 - g. **Loose** the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit in your life.
Mat 16:19, Jam 4:7,8, 1Jn 3:8, Heb 2:14, Col 2:15.
 - h. **Proclaim**, confess your total and complete righteousness in Christ.
2Cor 5:21, 1Cor 1:30, Rom 5:17, Phil 3:9, Rom 3:22,24,28, Rom 4:3,5, Gal 2:16, Jer 23:6, Is 54:17, Is 61:10.
 - i. **Start rejoicing** in Christ for all His goodness, love and mercy. *Col 3:16, Phil 4:4, Rom 14:17.*