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SECTION 11 – The Armor of God & Spiritual Warfare

Lesson 43 - The Armor of God Part 3

Ephesians 6:10-17 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

How do we put on the armor of God?

Each piece of the armor is a revelation and is only put on by you entering into the manifestation of the experience of that revelation.

As you enter into the manifestation of truth, as you embrace truth, as you come under the control of truth, as your mind becomes filled with truth, as you open your mouth and speak truth, then you will begin to have the belt of truth. It will begin to protect you from the assaults of the enemy.

Breastplate of Righteousness - The breastplate covers the entire mid section of the body. It protects the vital organs. Righteousness is that thing that protects the vital organs. It protects the most sensitive, the most vulnerable part of who you are. It is righteousness that protects us.

The word righteous means equity of character; it literally means the quality of the character of God. It speaks of God's nature, which is holiness. God is holy. He is a holy God. Righteousness speaks of the equality of the character of God, the nature of God, equality with the character of God.

The Bible says that we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:21) We are to line up with the character and nature of God in Christ Jesus. There are two dimensions of that. There is the righteousness that is inputted into us, that is credited to us, not by what we've done, but because of what Jesus has done. Then there is the righteousness that has been imparted into us that empowers us to walk with what God has already credited us to have.

If you look deeper into the original meaning it literally means a plumb line. Those of you that are builders understand what a plumb line is. Often today they use lasers, but it's still a plumb line. It's the

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line used to ensure the entire project is lined up correctly. It's that perfect line of the character and nature of God. We are to line up with the character and nature of God.

I want to talk a little bit about how holiness empowers us. Righteousness speaks of the holiness of God; the character and nature of God. An interesting phenomenon in natural life, but if you take a perfectly straight power line and run a tremendous amount of power through it you can then take another copper line that is totally separate and just bring it near the line with power running through it and line it up exactly plumb with the original power line. The line that has no power being run through it from any generator will actually begin to carry a current. The more it is lined up with the line carrying power, the more it will actually carry the current along with it. It's a stunning phenomenon. And if we line up our lives with the character of God, the power that is inherent in God begins to flow through us. God has called us to rise up to His standards of righteousness, to His standard of holiness.

Romans 8:29 *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

He predestined us to be conformed into the image of Jesus. It doesn't mean we are going to physically look like Jesus. We are going to be like Him in His nature. We're going to be conformed to His nature; and the nature of God is holiness. God preplanned, and God predestined, God set it in motion that you and I would line up with His character, would line up with His nature; would line up with righteousness, with holiness.

Romans 6:19 *I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.*

What does it mean to be a slave of righteousness and holiness?

[You're to be a slave to the equality of the character of God; a slave to holiness.](#)

Today many people say they're free from legalism and free to go do whatever they want to do. They've lowered the standard that they live at. It used to be a good Christian didn't drink, smoke and cuss. Now they do it all, and think they're free to do it. They're not pursuing holiness, they're not pursuing righteousness. Paul said you are to be a slave to holiness.

The devil sold the lie that holiness is a prison and bondage. It's just like the devil sold people on a lie that submission is bondage, and that submission is a prison, and yet submission is incredibly freeing. Submission is freeing and empowering. The devil sold us through a lie that holiness is somehow restrictive and bondage. He promotes that lie. We see it on television, we see it through the movies, we see it through everything else. They're always presenting preaching of holiness as stiff and ridged and

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bitter and old and boring. They portray preachers of holiness as the bad guys and the ones standing in the way of promise.

The day is coming when the preachers of holiness and the carriers of righteousness, even more than today, are going to be blamed for the world's problems. But I tell you in the name of Jesus, God is going to release a new wave of holiness upon the body of Christ. We are to be slaves of righteousness and holiness.

Romans 6:22 *But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.*

1 Thessalonians 4:7 *For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.*

Hebrews 12:14 *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:*

Holiness protects you. It's a weapon of warfare to fight the devil.

If we really believe the Word of God, if we really believe what this Word says, if we really are lovers of truth, if we were really submitting and yielding ourselves to truth, don't you think we would spend a significant amount of time preaching holiness because we know according to the Word, without holiness no one will see the Lord? We claim that we're leading them to Jesus, yet we're not preaching holiness.

Some of you in your minds right now are thinking I've started preaching legalism. That's because you don't know what legalism is. You think holiness is legalistic. God spoke to me some years ago and He said, "Son what most people call legalism, I call holiness". True legalism is living a certain lifestyle, obeying certain principles in order to garner the favor of God; that's legalism. We don't do that. I don't live holy to get the favor of God. I have God's favor right now. It is by grace: the undeserved, unmerited favor of God that I am saved. I have the grace of God; I have the favor of God. But because I have the favor of God, now I choose to live holy. I pursue holiness, not because I'm going to get the favor, but because I have the favor. That is the pursuit of God. That is the pursuit of holiness.

Holiness is power. It's a mighty weapon. He said it's a shield that protects us. Holiness is the shield that protects us. Holiness protects us. It covers the vital organs; the most sensitive parts of our spirit man.

Exodus 15:26 *and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."*

If you live and pursue holiness God will protect you not just from natural diseases, but also spiritually. Don't get made at me, but the fact is there are many people that are sick today because they are living in sin. He says there are those of you that even die because they did not partake of the Lord's supper correctly. They did not treat and honor the body of the Lord and deal with it appropriately. They were

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dealing with sin and disease entered in, sickness entered in, even death entered in. I'm not saying that every time someone gets sick it's because they're living in sin, but sickness is the result of sin. If you live righteous God will protect you from diseases; not only natural diseases, but mental diseases, physical diseases, financial diseases, family diseases, the poison of the fruit of sin. God says if you pursue Him, if you go after Him, if you obey His commands, He will protect you.

Holiness is not restrictive. Holiness is freeing; holiness protects. It protects your family.

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Proverbs 16:7 *When a man's ways please the LORD,
He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

Isaiah 54:14-17 *In righteousness you shall be established;
You shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear;
And from terror, for it shall not come near you.
15 Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of Me.
Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake.
16 " Behold, I have created the blacksmith
Who blows the coals in the fire,
Who brings forth an instrument for his work;
And I have created the spoiler to destroy.
17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper,
And every tongue which rises against you in judgment
You shall condemn.
This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,
And their righteousness is from Me,"
Says the LORD..*

We like to quote the part that no weapon formed against us shall prosper, but that only speaks to those who are living righteous, who are pursuing righteousness. In context look at verse 14: In righteousness you shall be established. When you're walking in righteousness, when you're pursuing holiness, it protects you. It will protect you from the assault of the enemy. It'll protect your family from the assaults of the enemy.

Moms and dads have to put up a wall of holiness in their homes. You've got to put up a wall of holiness and watch what your children are looking at on the internet and television. Over 70% of 15 year olds are looking at internet pornography. Put up a wall of holiness with the video games you allow them to watch. Put up a wall of holiness with the music you let come into the house. You may think it's too difficult, it's too hard with all the things we have to battle with our kids. They're so influenced by their friends. Are you still a parent? Is that still your house? Then you've got to be willing to fight. They may get mad at you, but let me tell you something. I would rather guard them and protect them now, and

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fight the battle now than to have to face eternity knowing my child is spending eternity burning in hell because I didn't build a wall of holiness in my house, and I allowed the wickedness of the enemy to penetrate and divide and to steal my children. How far are you willing to fight? Nothing is too hard to save your family from an eternity in hell, from the torment of the devil. No battle is not worth fighting.

I remember a 12 year old girl who was going out every night partying, getting drunk, doing drugs and her mother knew about it. She came to me in a youth group and told me what she was doing. The third week she came to me in tears and said, "I told my mother I was gonna go out. I told her I was gonna sleep with my boyfriend. I told her I was gonna get high and drunk. And she said, 'Go ahead,'" and then she said, "Why doesn't my mother love me? Why doesn't my mother stop me? Why doesn't she stand in front of the door and block me?" Understand that many children are crying out for their parents to protect them. On one side they're fighting you, but deep on the inside they want a strong parent. They want one with the will to stand up and fight for them and say, "No matter whether you hate me, no matter whether you want to ever talk to me again, I'm going to build a wall of holiness around you, and I'm going to guard you and protect you from the devil as long as I can." That's not restrictive, that's not legalistic parents. That's not being a controlling parent. That's called passion and mercy. Build a wall of holiness around your home. Be aware of what they listen to.

What does God promise to those who pursue righteousness?

[God said there could be no weapon formed against you that will prosper only when you pursue righteousness, only when you pursue holiness.](#)

That's why we've got to stop taking the scriptures out of context, and teach all these people that no weapon formed against them shall prosper only if they're living righteous. Otherwise you're vulnerable, because righteousness is the breastplate that protects the most vulnerable part of you.

His holiness protects you and empowers you. Holiness empowers us. It's not weak. It's not restrictive.

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, according to the spirit of holiness by the resurrection of the dead. It is the power of the spirit of holiness that caused Jesus to be raised from the dead. When we are lined up with Jesus we are lined up with the character and nature of the Father. Jesus did not do anything here on this earth in His own inherent power. He did not do anything on this earth in His own inherent nature, but when He lined up with the power of God, when He lined up with the nature of God, when He lined up the same power that flowed through the Father, it flowed through Him. That's called the spirit of holiness. When Jesus was declared the Son of God the power, according to the spirit of holiness, flowed through Him. Holiness empowers.

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For Further Study:

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

Acts 10:35 *But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.*

Romans 4:3 *For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”*