



# THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Week 53 | June 3, 2025

*“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,  
with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place...”*

## Ephesians 6:14

I find it **too fitting** to be *coincidence* that the piece of armor guarding our hearts is that of **righteousness**. Defined as possessing a *goodness of character* and a right standing with God, righteousness is what **many seek** but few truly find ([Matthew 7:14](#)). *Impossible* by our own efforts, only **by grace** through *faith in Christ* can we hope to receive the free gift that is **justification** with God and a *new heart* which mirrors His own ([Isaiah 64:6](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#); [Ezekiel 36:26](#)).

But even a gift received is only beneficial when **opened**, **used**, and subsequently **protected**. The Enemy knows this and seeks to *deceive* and *distort* the now righteous hearts of God's people through various schemes of **condemnation**, **conceit**, and **corruption**. We are *not defenseless* though. God has given us His very own body armor to serve as **our covering** from the *attacks of Satan*. This week, let us pray for the righteousness of God to shield us from every assault, asking specifically that He would help us to **access**, **live in**, and **protect** this *amazing gift* by:

### 1. REMINDING Us ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#))

- a. **NOTE:** The Enemy is described as the “*accuser of the brethren*” and is often seen throughout scripture aiming to **attack** and **condemn** God's children. These attacks can be especially potent when we fail to live up to **God's standards** and fall *flat on our face* again and again. In times like these we need a holy reminder from heaven, speaking **God's truth** about *who we are* in Him into our hearts and minds, drowning out the voice of **accusation** coming from the Enemy. ([Rev. 12:10](#); [Rom. 3:22](#); [1 Cor. 1:30](#); [Eph. 2:19](#))
  - i. **For Ex.** “Lord God, thank You for all of **the work** You did in order to secure us in the *righteousness of Christ*. Thank You for making us whole and holy by the blood of Jesus. It can be so **easy to forget**, though, when we *fail and fall short of* who we are meant to be. Remind us, Father, in that moment, **who You say** we are. Remind us, Lord, of our *adoption, perfection, and permanent right standing* before Your eyes. Silence the lies of the Enemy, **open our ears** to Your truth.”
    1. **REMEMBER:** You will *stumble*, you will **fall**. But you don't have to stay down any longer! ([Proverbs 25:16](#))

### 2. HUMBLING Us ([James 4:6](#))

- a. **NOTE:** When the Enemy fails to **discourage us** through *accusations*, He will often turn to subtler tactics. Backing off of the **frontal assaults**, he instead seeks to sow *seeds of arrogance* in our hearts and minds, shrewdly planting the notion that some small part of our goodness or righteousness is of **our own doing**. This *toehold of pride* quickly becomes a mountainous obstacle to receiving the **grace of God** that is the very key to the *righteousness* we seek! ([Prov. 29:23](#); [Philip. 3:9](#); [Gal. 2:16](#); [1 Pet. 5:5](#))

- i. **For Ex.** “Father God, You are the **Alpha** and the **Omega**, the beginning and the end of *all things*, including my life. This is **all about You**, and *not about me*. Thank You for granting to us a righteousness that is based entirely on what **You’ve done**, that none may boast. *Remind us* of this fact, Lord, when the temptation to pride arises. Expose our **entitlement**, reveal our **arrogance**, uncover our **conceit**. *Humble us*, Father, so that we might continue to receive Your grace and live out **the righteousness** You have *instilled within us*.”
  1. **REMEMBER:** We all *may stumble*, but the **prideful** have a much further fall and a *much harder* landing than **the humble**. ([Proverbs 16:18](#))

### 3. CLEANSING Us ([1 John 1:9](#))

- a. **NOTE:** Though we have been **made righteous** and given a new *heart and life*, we don’t always act rightly. Why is that? In part it is based on a **corruption** of our *God-given desires*, which we all have at the core of who we are. God **gave us** the desire for *food, drink, sex, companionship, and intimacy*; these are not wrong or evil in and of themselves. The Enemy, however, has sought to **twist, pervert, and distort** these desires in order to bring about *death and destruction* in our lives. These corrupted cravings inside of us are what is commonly known as “**The Flesh**” and it must be *cleansed and crucified* in order for the righteousness of Christ to be **protected, nurtured, and fruitful** in our lives. ([Gen. 1:27](#); [John 10:10](#); [Gal. 5:24](#); [Psalm 51:10](#))
  - i. **For Ex.** “Lord Jesus, thank You for making us in **Your own image**, for placing within us desires that *mirror Your own*. Thank You also for coming to Earth and dying on the cross in order to mend that which had been broken, offering us **healing and restoration, holiness and righteousness**. Send Your Spirit now to search us and **examine our hearts**, *cleansing them* of all unrighteousness by the power of Your blood. Purify our every **motive, thought, and action** Lord, so that we might *live out the undefiled righteousness* You have placed within us.”
    1. **REMEMBER:** All of *our desires* find their true fulfillment in and **through Christ**. ([Ephesians 1:23](#); [Colossians 2:10](#))

### Questions for Reflection:

- Have you ever **fallen** and **forgotten** who *God says you are*?
  - Pick up His word, He wrote it to **remind you** of *the truth* even when you’re surrounded by lies.
- Do you **take pride** in being a *good person*? Find personal satisfaction in the good that you do?
  - There’s nothing wrong with **feeling good** about *doing good*, but be on guard. There’s no **faster way** to *fall farther* than attempting to steal God’s glory for what **He’s done**.
- What **God-given desire** of your heart has been *twisted or corrupted*?
  - Seek its fulfillment in God alone, and let Him **cleanse it** of every *evil influence*.