

## **THE ARMOR OF GOD "In God's Dressing Room"**

Eph 6:10-13

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

12 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.

13 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. (NIV)

*We have looked at the internal struggle of the believer. We are now approaching the time when we can examine the enemy of the believer. But before we do, we need to understand the principle of being clothed. We are told in v. 11 to "put on the full armor of God." The word of God shows clearly that for there to be a putting on, a putting off must be done first.*

Eph 4:21-24 (KJV)

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

*We must put off the old man and put on the new. Where is the new? It was created in me, in my spirit, in righteousness and true holiness. Now, that which I have by right of birth I must practice as a responsibility of sonship.*

1 Cor 2:11-12

11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. (NIV)

*God's stated purpose for having given us of his Spirit is that we might understand what he has freely given to us. [ The Greek is charizomai, mainly translated as "forgive" or "forgiven." ]*

### **How important is it to understand what God has given FREELY?**

*When we do not appreciate the graciousness of our God, not only do we fail to walk in the liberty he has given us to enjoy his bounty; we also impose on ourselves rules by which we hope to earn what is already ours. Furthermore, a lack of understanding in regard to the graciousness of our Father develops within us a wrong perspective of Him, opening us up for temptation to believe that He is an oppressive and stingy God.*

### **What can forgetting God's grace (and forgiveness) cost?**

Gen 2:16

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: (KJV)

Gen 3:2 "The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," (NIV)

*Eve, either by her own neglect or her husband's negligence, left out "freely". God had said that they may "freely" eat.*

Gen 3:7, 12

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

21 The LORD God made garments of skin [*singular, for one sacrifice was sufficient*] for Adam and his wife and clothed them. (NIV)

### **What do you suppose had to happen before God clothed them in the animal skin?**

*The coats of leaves had to come off. The Lord provided the sacrifice, he made the clothes, and he put them on them.*

1 Sam 17:32-39

32 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

33 Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth."

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock,

35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.

36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.

37 The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head.

39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. (NIV)

*We have to learn to trust in the Lord first before we walk in the armor. We do not want to be like the strong man who trusted in his armor and was spoiled (Luke 11:21-22). After that David had put his trust in the Lord, he was clothed in armor by Johnathan and did battle in it (1 Sam. 18).*

1 Sam 18:1-5

1 After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.

- 2 From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house.
- 3 And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.
- 4 Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his **belt**<sup>1</sup>.
- 5 Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it so successfully that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the people, and Saul's officers as well. (NIV)

David is seen in Jonathan's clothes, that all may take notice he is a Jonathan's second self. Our Lord Jesus has thus shown his love to us, that he stripped himself to clothe us, emptied himself to enrich us; nay, he did more than Jonathan, he clothed himself with our rags, whereas Jonathan did not put on David's. (from Matthew Henry's Commentary)

*Jonathan's love for David was sealed when David finished speaking with Saul (the father). Jonathan hereupon clothes the lad in armor. Whether Jonathan actually clothed David in the articles or simply gave them to him does not matter. The point is that David received the armor as a gift, but wore it as a practice. This is an allegory of our present situation. We have received Christ (for what is the armor of God but to be clothed with the kratos power of Christ?) now we must "put him on". Like David, we are loved by our Brother who has given to us His very own armor.*

Gen 3:21

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make **coats**<sup>2</sup> of skins, and clothed them. (KJV)

*Strong's definition-*

3801 **kethoneth**<sup>2</sup> (keth-o'-neth); or kuttoneth (koot-to'-neth); from an unused root meaning to cover [compare 3802]; a shirt: KJV-- coat, garment, robe.

*The Hebrew word used in Genesis 3:21 (its first usage) shows up in many interesting places. Its next use in Scripture deals with Joseph and his coat of many colors [Gen 37:3, 23, 31-33]. It is also used of:*

**The richly ornamented robes of the virgin daughters of the king (David)-** 2 Sam 13:18-19

**The robe of the king ('s steward)-** Isa 22:20-22

**The garment of the bride (which she put off while sleeping)-**

Song 5:1-6

- 1 I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk. Eat, O friends, and drink; drink your fill, O lovers.
- 2 I slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My lover is knocking: "Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night."
- 3 I have taken off my **robe**<sup>2</sup>-- must I put it on again? I have washed my feet-- must I soil them again?

4 My lover thrust his hand through the latch-opening; my heart began to pound for him.  
5 I arose to open for my lover, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with flowing myrrh, on the handles of the lock.  
6 I opened for my lover, but my lover had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure. I looked for him but did not find him. I called him but he did not answer. (NIV)

*But its main use [as well as the use of labash- "clothed"] regards the linen garment of the priests and the high priest.*

Exod 28:4, 39-40

4 These are the garments they are to make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a woven **tunic<sup>2</sup>**, a turban and a sash. They are to make these sacred garments for your brother Aaron and his sons, so they may serve me as priests.  
39 "Weave the **tunic<sup>2</sup>** of fine linen and make the turban of fine linen. The sash is to be the work of an embroiderer.  
40 Make **tunics<sup>2</sup>**, sashes and headbands for Aaron's sons, to give them dignity and honor. (NIV)

Lev 8:7, 13

7 He put the tunic on Aaron, tied the sash around him, clothed him with the robe and put the ephod on him. He also tied the ephod to him by its skillfully woven waistband; so it was fastened on him.  
13 Then he brought Aaron's sons forward, put tunics on them, tied sashes around them and put headbands on them, as the LORD commanded Moses. (NIV)

*The garments were made for the priests. Moses took these vestments and dressed Aaron and his sons. But after they had been ordained (dressed initially) it was their responsibility to wash and clothe themselves.*

Lev 16:3-4

3 "This is how Aaron is to enter the sanctuary area: with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.  
4 He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash around him and put on the linen turban. These are sacred garments; so he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on. (NIV)

Eph 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her  
26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,  
27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. (NIV)

**[We too are called to be priests]**

Rev 1:5b-6

5b To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,  
6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father-- to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. (NIV)

1 Pet 2:4-9 (NIV)

4 As you come to him, the living Stone-- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him--

5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,"

8 and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message-- which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Zech 3:1-10

1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.

2 The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel.

4 The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you."

5 Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by.

6 The angel of the LORD gave this charge to Joshua:

7 "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.'

8 "'Listen, O high priest Joshua and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch.

9 See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.

10 "In that day each of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and fig tree,' declares the LORD Almighty." (NIV)

*We are to put on what God has already clothed us with. Remember, it is the armor of God. The armor is his, given to us freely. Like all things given to us, we walk in them by faith. It is not simply an operation of the mind. It is the birthing of spiritual realities into the soul realm.*

*The Greek word used in Ephesians 6:11 is enduo. The English word "endue" means the same thing, to be clothed with.*

Rom 13:12-14

12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and

put on the armor of light.

13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. (NIV)

**With regard to "sinful nature", read quote from Derek Prince's They Shall Expell Demons, pages 98, 99.**

*This is an important concept. We are either in a battle with a nature we cannot overcome or we are taking a stand over a defeated foe. My Bible says that the old man is dead (Romans 6). I have an easier time picturing victory over a corpse than I do some duplicit "sin nature."*

Gal 3:26-27

26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,

27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (NIV)

*Our baptism into Christ was the subjective (being clothed) experience. Clothing ourselves with Christ is the objective walking out of what we have already received in the spirit.*

Col 3:9-14

9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

11 Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (NIV)

*The armor is not worn to minister to the bretheren. God forbid that we should chop a brother up with the sword of the spirit or bash a sister in the head with our shield of faith!*

Luke 24:45-49

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,

47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 You are witnesses of these things.

49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (NIV)

**Clothed with the Spirit:**

Judg 6:33-34

33 Now all the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples joined forces and crossed over the Jordan and camped in the Valley of Jezreel.

34 Then the Spirit of the LORD **came upon<sup>3</sup>** Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him. (NIV)

2 Chr 24:19-21

19 Although the LORD sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen.

20 Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, "This is what God says: 'Why do you disobey the LORD's commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.'"

21 But they plotted against him, and by order of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the LORD's temple. (NIV)

1 Chr 12:16-18

16 Other Benjamites and some men from Judah also came to David in his stronghold.

17 David went out to meet them and said to them, "If you have come to me in peace, to help me, I am ready to have you unite with me. But if you have come to betray me to my enemies when my hands are free from violence, may the God of our fathers see it and judge you."

18 Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, chief of the Thirty, and he said: "We are yours, O David! We are with you, O son of Jesse! Success, success to you, and success to those who help you, for your God will help you." So David received them and made them leaders of his raiding bands. (NIV)

*By being clothed in the Spirit of the Lord, a warrior pledged his allegiance to the King. For this, he is rewarded with rank. [This man was chief of the thirty! 2 Sam 23!]*

*God has clothed us in his spirit. The armor is his and we have it. But we must don it, appropriate it in the soul realm if you will, to stand against the enemy.*

Isa 61:10

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he **has clothed<sup>3</sup>** me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. (NIV)