

# Spiritual Warfare, Part 4—Preparing for Battle

With Chip Ingram, The Invisible War

## The armor of God in Real Life Circumstances

2.) “Having put on the breastplate of righteousness”

- Metaphor Explained:
- “Righteousness” = Uprightness, right living, integrity in one’s lifestyle and character – conforming of our will with God’s will.

We already possess righteousness in our standing before God through the work of Christ, this breastplate of righteousness (that guards and protects our heart) is the practical application of the truth to our lives – i.e. Lordship of Christ.

- Satan’s attacks are not merely deception, but \_\_\_\_\_ (resulting in guilt and condemnation) of the believer. When we willfully turn away from what we know is God’s will, we open ourselves to demonic influence in our lives.

**Breastplate of Righteousness is the application of \_\_\_\_\_ to your life.**

Old Testament = Saul: He knew what he should do but he did the \_\_\_\_\_.

Saul’s goals involved:

As a result:

New Testament = Peter (Matthew 16:12-230

The agenda is about \_\_\_\_\_. This is the same as Satan’s desire.

We can easily say, “I am taking up the \_\_\_\_\_ in order to get a \_\_\_\_\_.”

Motivation:

*“Therefore, to the one who knows what is right to do and doesn’t do it, to him it is sin.”*

James 4:17 (NASB)

We must know the difference between conviction and condemnation:

**Conviction is very \_\_\_\_\_, and the goal is to \_\_\_\_\_ you and the heavenly Father.**

**Condemnation is \_\_\_\_\_ and makes you feel \_\_\_\_\_ making you want to go away from your heavenly Father.**

We become what we believe. How can we evaluate what we believe?

\_\_\_\_\_

Definition of Hypocrite: \_\_\_\_\_

Examples: Condemnation vs. Conviction

**Personal Issues:**

- Anyone you need to forgive?
- Any unresolved relationships? (Those who still have power over your life?)
- Any issues with purity in your thoughts? In your speech?
- Any issues in your finances? (Saving vs saving b/c of fear? generosity & giving?)
- Are your priorities where you think they need to be? (Spiritually? Physically?)
- Are there any habits you need to change? (Media? Food? What do we go to when HALT?)

We can be neutralized in our faith and in trusting God by some of the above.

**Laziness: Not doing what \_\_\_\_\_ to be done \_\_\_\_\_ it needs to be done.**  
Self—control (Self-discipline) is a fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23

Living with low-grade guilt and condemnation can sideline our faith.

**Putting on the armor of God to fend of the attack of “principalities & powers” involves**

- Being honest with God
  - Being in His Word
  - Responding to what He already showed me.
- } Protects   
The Breastplate of Righteousness

“Words are a \_\_\_\_\_ defense against condemnation, but a \_\_\_\_\_ life is.”  
Patterns we “live with” without considering the consequences of the “low-grade” sin.

**3.) “Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace”**

- Metaphor Explained:

- “Preparation” = Establishment – the means of a firm foundation; also conveys the idea of readiness to share the Gospel which brings peace between man and God.

Understand that Satan always attacks \_\_\_\_\_ .

It can easily be corrupted to be about “what you \_\_\_\_\_ instead of what God has \_\_\_\_\_.”

How does God measure growth? In my \_\_\_\_\_ for Him and in my \_\_\_\_\_ for people.

*2 Corinthians 11:3*

*I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ*

- Satan not only uses deception and condemnation to \_\_\_\_\_ believers, but also specializes in casting doubt on the very basis of God’s goodness and the means by which we have received it – the Gospel.

**The Gospel: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8**

*<sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.*

*<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.*

*<sup>8</sup> Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.*

“The Gospel is good news. It is not program to become more \_\_\_\_\_ .

Do you . . .

1.) Know and understand the content of the Gospel? — 1 Corinthians 15:1–5; Ephesians 2:1–9

2.) Know the basis for your eternal security and the assurance of your salvation?

Security – Romans 8:38–39; Ephesians 1:13–14. Assurance – 1 John 5:11-13

3.) Faith is based on facts, not feelings?

4.) Sharing your faith is one of the most powerful faith-builders available? (Often “the best defense is a good offense.”) Romans 1: 16

The power of the gospel is not in the \_\_\_\_\_ but in the \_\_\_\_\_ .

## Conclusion:

God has objectively defeated Satan and his agenda. He has delivered us from sin's penalty and power and ultimately will deliver us from sin's very presence. In the interim, we are involved in guerilla warfare with demonic forces.

As believers, we have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of light with all the rights, privileges, and position that being a child of God entails.

The spiritual battle we fight involves a responsibility on our part to "put on" the spiritual protection that God has provided for us. We can and will resist the enemy's attempts to "deceive", "accuse", and "cast doubt" when we stand firm against him by:

- 1.) Being honest with God, ourselves and others as a prerequisite to all spiritual battle.
- 2.) Responding to the truth that God shows us about His will for our lives – righteous living.
- 3.) Having a clear understanding of "the Gospel" and the habitual sharing of this message of grace.

The great majority of spiritual warfare need never go beyond the regular practice of living out our position in Christ by faith. Our practice of Paul's metaphor of the spiritual armor protects us from Satan's ongoing attempts to break our fellowship with Jesus and, as a result, greatly minimizes any impact by the enemy.

There are times however, when we must move beyond "standing firm" and engage the enemy in actual combat. This will be the topic of our next study, Ephesians 6:16–20.

## Think It Over

1. Chip describes the breastplate of righteousness as conforming our will to God's will. It is integrity and character in one's lifestyle. How does conforming your will to God's will protect your heart? Can you think of an example of this in your life?
2. Although conforming to God's will protects our hearts, we still may choose to turn away, which opens us up to attack. Why do you think it is hard for us to choose God's will? Why is it personally challenging for you to choose God's will?
3. Christians often get condemnation and conviction confused. What is the difference between the two? How does the enemy use condemnation to attack you? How does the Holy Spirit use conviction in your life?

4. Review the Personal Issues that Chip listed in his teaching. Who or what came immediately to mind as you look at these areas:
  - a. Anyone you need to forgive?
  - b. Any unresolved relationship?
  - c. Any issues with purity in your thoughts or speech?
  - d. Any issues in your finances?
  - e. Are your priorities where they need to be
    - i. Spiritually
    - ii. Physically
  - f. Are there any habits you need to change?
    - i. Media
    - ii. Food
    - iii. H.A.L.T. remedies

Remember, this is NOT to condemn you with thinking, "I am such a loser, etc." but to draw you closer to Jesus who can transform you (Romans 12:2) and change you into the woman He designed you to be. He does the work as we lay it at His feet and Choose to walk in obedience.

5. Are you knowingly or unknowingly living with low-grade guilt and low-grade condemnation? If so, how is it impacting your life?
6. Read Romans 8:1, As one who belongs to Christ, what does this say about you?
7. Think of a time in the last two weeks that the Holy Spirit living in you convicted you of sin. How did you respond? What truth does John share with us about God's forgiveness in 1 John 1:9? Do you genuinely believe you are forgiven by God?

## Live It Out

Faith is rooted in facts, not feelings. There will be days you don't feel so good about God, and there will be days you don't feel close to Him. Those feelings do not change the facts about your eternal security in Jesus.

Look up and consider the following scriptures. What facts do you discover regarding your eternal security in our Lord Jesus Christ. Then write the ones that speak to your heart and put them in a place where you can see them regularly. Read through these verses when doubts and fears rise up or your feelings take a dive.

- John 3:16
- Romans 6:23
- John 10:28-29
- Romans 8:38-39
- Ephesians 1:13-14
- 1 John 5:11-13

**Pray:** Lord, thank you for your kindness and compassion which abounds towards me. Thank you that you are the God who forgives and restores your children. Grant me the grace to be open and honest with you with my sin and insecurities. Help me to understand the absolute security and stability I have in You through Jesus when I am besieged with doubts. Give me a heart to immediately respond to Your conviction when You point to areas which I've blown it so that I can experience your forgiveness and not bear the burden of guilt. Draw me close to you and restore my relationship with you and those around me.

**Sharing the Gospel:** Take a few minutes and consider your story with Jesus. Sharing it with someone else is a powerful faith builder! Jot down some thoughts about your life before Christ, when you accepted Him as your personal Savior and what your faith-walk with him is now. Share your faith story with someone this week!