
The Breastplate of Righteousness (The Protection of God)

Keys To Our Spiritual Armory

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November 30, 2025

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Sermon: Keys To Our Spiritual Armory: The Breastplate of Righteousness (The Protection of God)

Lesson Text

Ephesians 6:14 (KJV)¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, **and having on the breastplate of righteousness;**

John 20:22 (KJV)²² And when he had said this, **he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**

John 15:1–3 (KJV)¹ **I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. ³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**

Matthew 22:37–39 (KJV)³⁷ Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

Introduction

The next element in our spiritual armory we will deal with today is the breastplate of righteousness.

Have you ever felt like “I just can’t take it no more.”? It’s like things just keep coming at you; trouble after trouble, attack after attack, disappointments, frustrations over and over again.

Karen Clark Sheard, *“I just can't take it no more, My strength has walked out the door. And it left me and told me I can't go no more. I just can't take it no more, just want to lay down and die. God, if You hear me, come near me, you're my only hope.”*

You feel this way because the wind has been knocked out of you. You feel like you’re going to die, but you don’t. Why? Because you were protected by your rib cage.

The breastplate of righteousness to the spirit man, is as the rib cage is to the physical man – it protects our vital organs.

- The rib cage protects the lungs which give us air, kidneys which cleanses our body, and the heart which circulates our blood.
- The breastplate of righteousness protects our spiritual breath of life, our cleansing from sin, and our circulation of God’s love.

Righteousness is about our behavior, our holy living, our sanctification and holiness. It is about how we live once we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior.

- Romans 12: ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

However, righteousness is an interesting dichotomy (or contradiction) when it comes to salvation and holiness.

Although it has absolutely nothing to do with our salvation or getting to heaven:

- Titus 3: ⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
- Isaiah 64: ⁶ But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

It is, however, absolutely essential to our living on earth:

- Romans 6: ¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
- James 2: ²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Without our rib cage's look protection, we can experience respiratory failure with our lungs, renal failure with our kidneys, and circulatory failure with our heart. And without the breastplate of righteousness, we can experience the same failures spiritually. Any of which can lead to spiritual death.

Series and Sermon: Keys To Our Spiritual Armory: The Breastplate of Righteousness (The Protection of God)

(Protection for the Breath of God, Protection for the Word of God, Protection for the Heart of God)

I. Protection for the Breath of God (Spiritual Respiratory)

John 20:22 (KJV)²² And when he had said this, **he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**

Just as the rib cage protects the air in our lungs, the Breastplate of Righteousness protects the spiritual breath of life we receive from the Holy Spirit.

However, most people think of the Holy Spirit as a supernatural power that is designed to protect us against sin, wickedness, unrighteousness, and unclean spirits.

- Luke 10: ¹⁹ **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**
- “The reason why church people are so mean, wicked, or carnal is because they don't have the Holy Ghost!”

But the proper application of the power of the Holy Spirit is about giving one the ability, capability, or potential for supernatural power.

- John 14: ²⁶ **But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**
- 1 Thessalonians 5: ¹⁹ Quench not the Spirit.

- Ephesians 4: ³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
- Don't behave in a manner that will suppress or cause distress to the Holy Spirit.

The Breastplate of Righteousness is what activates the potential power of the Holy Spirit, and protects that power within you.

Galatians 5: ¹⁶ *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

II. Protection for the Word of God (Spiritual Cleansing)

John 15: ¹ *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.* ² *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.* ³ *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

Whereas the kidneys are designed to filter and cleanse the trash and waste out of our body, the Breastplate of Righteousness protects the power of God's Word to cleanse us.

You can be saved, but if your spiritual kidneys (God's Word) are not working, then the trash and waste that is in you (Sin) is not being filtered and cleansed out of you – which will slowly poison and kill you.

- Psalm 51: ⁵ Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- Romans 7: ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

Sin may be a part of us and in us, but it's not supposed to stay in us.

Romans 6: ¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

1 John 1: ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Breastplate of Righteousness is what allows the Word of God to cleanse us from unrighteousness.

James 1: ²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. ²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: ²⁴ For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

III. Protection for the Heart of God (Spiritual Circulatory)

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Matthew 22: ³⁷ Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.** ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second *is* like unto it, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

Our natural heart circulates life-giving blood throughout our body, and the final thing that the Breastplate of Righteousness does is it protects our Spiritual heart to circulate the Love of God.

John 13: ³⁵ **By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

But too many Christians are not known by the Love of God because the Heart is not circulating.

- Offended: Luke 17: ¹ Then said he unto the disciples, **It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe *unto him*, through whom they come!**
- Hated: Psalm 69: ⁴ They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, *being* mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored *that* which I took not away.
- Anger: Ephesians 4: ²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

The Breastplate of Righteousness is what allows the Love of God to circulate through us.

Matthew 5: ⁴³ **Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.** ⁴⁴ **But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Breastplate of Righteousness (The Protection of God))

Lesson Text

- Ephesians 6:14, John 20:22, John 15:1–3, Matthew 22:37–39

Sermon Outline

- I. Protection for the Breath of God (Spiritual Respiratory)**
- II. Protection for the Word of God (Spiritual Cleansing)**
- III. Protection for the Heart of God (Spiritual Circulatory)**

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What is one thing you want God to help you to release?
2. Share one word that describes your year so far and explain why.

II. Into The Bible

1. Ephesians 6:15 and Isaiah 59:17 both speak of a “breastplate of righteousness”. From the passages, is Paul pointing to Christ’s righteousness that is credited to us, to righteous living or both? (*Study references: Romans 3:21-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Philippians 3:9, Ephesians 4:24, 1 Thessalonians 5:8*)
2. Why does scripture treat the “heart” and “inward parts” as the control center, and how would a breastplate protect them? Explain how righteousness guards thought, affection, and conscience. (*Study references: Proverbs 4:23, Psalm 26:2, Jeremiah 17:10, Hebrews 10:22*)

III. Life Application

1. Describe a real life situation in which a believer needs to put on the Breastplate of Righteousness.
2. Based on the lesson, explain how the Righteousness of God provides protection for the people of God.