

## The Breastplate of Righteousness Ephesians 6:10-14

Spiritual warfare is more about getting closer to God than it is about battling the Devil!

Victory is won by focusing on Jesus Christ and how we can cloth ourselves with Him continually.

After we have put on the full armor of God, we are to stand firm.

### I. WHAT IS THE BREAST PLATE?

The breastplate was a central part of the Roman soldier's armor.

It protected his vital organs.

It was fitted with loops or buckles that attached it to a thick belt.

It is Truth that makes up the Belt & Righteousness that makes up the Breastplate.

### II. WHAT RIGHTEOUSNESS?

Righteousness is described in two ways for the believer:

#### 1. **Imputed righteousness.** [Done for us By God through Christ.]

When we received Jesus Christ we were made Right.

This is God's gift to us based on what Christ did for us on the cross.

**Romans 5:19; 2 Corinth 5:21; Romans 3:22**

We are made righteous by the Son of God!

#### 2. **Imparted righteousness.** [Done Through us, by Christ living in us.] **1 John 3:7**

If we are made right with God,

Christ' righteousness should flow out of us in righteous living! **Romans 6:18,19**

Righteousness is something we should strive for because of Christ in us.

We are not slaves to sin, but to righteousness!

These two types of righteousness are meshed together in the breastplate,

**Matthew 5:6; Matthew 6:33**

It is never our righteousness!

He gives us righteousness and

He produces righteousness through us, not by us, by Him!

### III. THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Without a breastplate, a soldier would be asking for death.

Spiritually speaking, you must guard your heart from evil.

Few things will paralyze a Christian like the guilt of past sins.

It may have already been confessed, forgiven, and forsaken,

but Satan will dredge it up over and over again to hurt you.

### IV. PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS?

We are instructed to "put on" this armor.

Putting on the armor of God requires a decision on our part.

We "put it on" by seeking God and His righteousness above everything else. **Luke 9:23**

We "put it on"

1. By receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Master.

2. By taking up our cross daily. [Sanctification = imparted righteousness]

He produces righteousness through us, not by us, by Him!

### V. WHY IS THIS PIECE SECOND IN OUR PREPERATION FOR BATTLE?

Remember the bottom of it was anchored to the belt of truth.

Righteousness is tied to and anchored to Jesus.

It is the second because without Christ we cannot have true righteousness.

Our armor would be useless in a spiritual battle!