

**Full Armor of God Week 3: Breastplate of Righteousness
Sunday February 16th, 2020**

Ephesians 6:10-11 (NLT, pg. 980) A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

Ephesians 6:13-18 (NLT, pg. 980-981)

Breastplate of Righteousness

Righteousness is the _____ of God's holiness; a character trait that is manifested through actions.

For God:
Character trait =

Action = righteousness

For the enemy:
Character trait =

Action = wickedness

God _____ what is righteous.

Isaiah 45:21b-22 (NLT, pg. 604) For there is no other God but me, a righteous God and Savior. There is none but me. Let all the world look to me for salvation! For I am God; there is no other.

Human righteousness can't be _____ without God.

Isaiah 45:24 (NLT, pg. 604) The people will declare, "The Lord is the source of all my righteousness and strength." And all who were angry with him will come to him and be ashamed.

Matthew 5:20 (NLT, pg. 802) "But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

Mark 2:17 (NLT, pg. 830) When Jesus heard this, he told them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

I am declared righteous by _____ Jesus as my savior.

Philippians 3:9 (NLT, pg. 985) I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.

How does righteousness protect me and keep me alive?

Righteousness shows the _____ condition of your character.

Ephesians 4:21-24 (NLT, pg. 979)

Righteousness keeps your faith _____ and growing.

James 2:22,26 (NLT, pg. 1020) You see, [Abraham's] faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete... Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

Righteousness brings _____ to your life and ministry.

Deuteronomy 6:24-25 (NLT, pg. 155) And the Lord our God commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear him so he can continue to bless us and preserve our lives, as he has done to this day. For we will be counted as righteous when we obey all the commands the Lord our God has given us.

1 Timothy 6:11-12 (NLT, pg. 1000) But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses.

Final Thought: Because God is holy, His actions are righteous. The closer I get to God the stronger my defenses become at keeping my faith alive. Are you living a life of _____?

Full Armor of God week 3 discussion questions

How have you seen the “strategies of the devil” this past week? Were you able to “be strong in the Lord and His mighty power” and “stand firm”? Explain. According to the armor illustration, truth and righteousness are connected. How are they connected? Read 2 Timothy 2:15-26. How does Paul connect truth and righteousness in this advice for Timothy? What do you see in this passage that will help you in your faith journey? Explain.

The breastplate provides protection and confidence to the warrior. How is this a fitting representation of righteousness? Explain. “Righteousness is like guard rails on the road of life” Is this a better illustration for righteousness than a breastplate? Why or why not? How would you explain to someone that righteousness is an important part of heart change and not just a list of “dos and don’ts” to check off? Read Philippians 3:1-9. How was Paul’s heart changed?

Jesus was very blunt with the Pharisees about how they were not righteous like they thought, but that they were going “all in” on a path that wasn’t going to the right destination (exactly what Paul was doing in the above passage). Have you ever gone really fast and really passionately in the wrong direction? Explain. Read Luke 18:9-14. What does this parable teach us about righteousness? What does it teach us about prayer?

“One of the great lies of the enemy is that we can be righteous by our own power or will” How have you seen this deception play out in our world? Read Romans 3:9-31. What is the truth that Paul presents here to prove this is a lie? This passage is a great explanation of the doctrine of justification. Why is this an important truth to understand? Explain.