

BIBLE STUDY SERIES:

TRUSTING THE FATHER

ARMOUR OF GOD

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INTENTION:

We must recognise that as we live on this earth, things are going to try and “steal, kill, or destroy”. It is a battle out there in the world, but also in (and against) our Spirit, Heart, Soul, Mind, and Body.

Let us “dress for battle”. There is no reason to ever take off His Armour!

I. TOPIC:

We want to look at the Armour of God.

Unlike Saul putting his armour on a young to-be-king David ([1 Samuel 17:38-40](#)), the Armour of God is specifically designed and created to fit us comfortably and with every piece fitting as it should. When we feel comfortable in what we wear, we become confident in doing what we do. This is as David saying that he wasn't comfortable in Saul's armour, but was comfortable in how he had done battle before—with a staff, shepherd's bag, and sling. And it was wearing what he was accustomed to that he slew the giant, Goliath, before him ([1 Samuel 17:45-51](#)).

Does that mean David went into every battle without armour? No. He developed his own armour that fit him for the right battle and weapons used. The Lord trained him for each battle, for each weapon, and armour used ([Psalms 18](#)).

What armour are we wearing?

Even if the armour doesn't fit or protect as it should, sometimes we get used to it...that is our flesh and its perceived strength or protection. We think (often unintentionally) we can handle the battle and the attack in our own ability or by what we have built around us—relying maybe on money, career, position, status, fame, a vice, or even people we have surrounded ourselves with. They may hold up for a while, even deceiving us in the process; but they will never compare to what the Lord can and does provide you. You just have to put on HIS Armour (an instruction to us to do).

But how discomfoting would this armour be if we believed that the Lord is always out to “ruin” me... would I “trust” putting on something (trusting in it) from a person that I don't inherently trust? The doubts that would constantly linger in me about this “gift” if I don't trust Him. Thus, what you wear comes from the type of relationship you have with Him.

Hence why this series “Trusting the Father” breaks down (away) those religious dogmas and misunderstandings taught to us in church or our own perceptions. For when we trust the source, we trust what we are wearing. And often what we are wearing naturally develops from that trust.

For, I have found for myself, that as I learn His Love-Nature, and remove the error-programming in me, I become comfortable and restful in Him, with a confidence of getting through any of life's battles that come my way from this world we live in—battles that defend (or reveal) who we actually are as Christ Jesus (as He Created us as).

And this Armour we are gifted to wear, is the same Armour as He Himself (God) wears. Jesus got to wear this exact same Armour too—not because He was “His Special Son”, but because He gives it out to ALL His children to wear!

The Lord designs this Armour to specifically fit you, no matter what size, stature, ability, age, gender, identity, family-line, denomination, etc. You actually get what works for God! Let's read... and break down each piece of it.

II. READING: [Ephesians 6:1-20](#) (NIV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full Armour 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 Armour 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. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

III. RELATED VERSES AND QUESTIONS:

- A. The “Belt of Truth”. This is something we have talked about in the context of having the “correct knowledge” of God. Anything other than that is not the full Truth. The first Truth and most valuable Truth is that of Jesus Christ—understanding how much stress-free / worry-free / work-free freedom He brought and gifted us ([Galatians 5:1](#)). When we hold onto (discover) what is His correct truth of who we are and what He accomplishes for us, our whole Armour stays in place with this belt, resting properly, distributing the weight of the full armour that it does not feel as a burden—it feels freeing ([John 8:32](#)).

[John 1:14-18](#) (NIV)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

[Acts 10:34-38](#) (NIV)

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. 36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. 37 You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

[Ephesians 4:21-24](#) (NIV) {PoG}

...when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude {spirit} of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Question: What are you discovering is the Truth for you? Is that Truth making areas of your life unburdened?

Response:

- B. The “Breastplate of Righteousness”. As we have learned before in a previous Bible Study (*Lesson 022*), Righteousness is not what we do or don’t do, it is a state of being—a title given to us (inherited from Him) upon believing in Christ Jesus. When we have this ingrained surety that we cannot gain or lose our Right-Standing with God (nor affect our relationship with Him), we can face the battle with confidence. That even if we make a mistake, our Righteousness is not in jeopardy; nor can anyone convince us that it is at risk (whether the Devil or our own Flesh). That is, this Breastplate guards (keeping it from getting hardened) our heart against our own mistakes (sin-conscience) and self-condemnation. When it is guarded in Righteousness, we can let go of that pressure of feeling we continually need to “please” or “appease” God—He is pleased with you!

[Proverbs 4:20-23](#) (NIV)

20 My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words.
21 Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart;
22 for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body.
23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

[Philippians 1:9-11](#) (NIV) {PoG}

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless {not troubled by a consciousness of sin} for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

[1 John 3:19-24](#) (NIV) {PoG}

This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: 20 If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands {*of believing and loving*} and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 The one who keeps God's commands {*of believing and loving*} lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Question: Do you struggle with the “unreturnable” Gift of Christ’s Perpetual-Righteousness upon you as a believer? How do you keep (guard) your heart from getting closed-off (hardened)?

Response:

- C. Having “your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of Peace”. When Moses approached the Burning Bush, the Lord spoke to Him to remove his sandals ([Exodus 3:5-6](#)). This signified that not only was it a Holy Place, but that Moses need not fear in the risk that he would need to run away. Thus, knowing we have Peace with God, we do not have to fear God ([Romans 5:1](#)) and fear any punishment from Him ([1 John 4:17-18](#)). How joyous is it to know that this Gospel brings freedom, healing, and favour—allowing us to stand in readiness for anything coming our way. That when we have done all we can to stand our ground, we can stay standing through Him—for He has overcome the world for us, while also bringing good from all the things that happen to us ([Romans 8:28](#)).

[Luke 4:16-19](#) (NIV)

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

[John 14:26-27; 16:33](#) (NIV)

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Question: What aspects of the Lord (of the Gospel) bring you Peace?

Response:

- D. “Take up the Shield of Faith.” This faith is a Fruit of the Spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)) which Jesus mastered and gifted us ([Hebrews 12:2](#)). Imagine Jesus Himself standing in front of you shielding you from all those “fiery arrows”. For when we manifest God in our lives (what Faith is), we overcome the world (the devil and anything against us).

[Romans 12:2-3](#) (NIV)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

[Galatians 2:16-22](#) (NIV) {PoG}

...know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by {the Faith of} Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by {the Faith of} Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

17 “But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn’t that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! 18 If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker.

19 “For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by {the Faith of the} Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

[Ephesians 2:4-10](#) (NIV) {PoG}

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through {His} faith—and this is not from yourselves, {they are gifts} of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Question: Do you rely on your own faith, or Christ’s (Fruit-Gifted) Faith? Do you rely on your own Grace?

Response:

- E. The “Helmet of Salvation”. When we protect our mind from the error that is the doubting of our Salvation, we can think clearly in battle. This Helmet is the “Hope of Salvation” ([1 Thessalonians 5:8](#)). This Helmet of Hope is there to protect us from the bombardment our mind faces each day living in this world. The world tries to convince us that: Jesus Christ is not real, or God does not exist, or living by His Faith can't be true, or I am “just a lowly sinner saved by grace”, or we can't undo our programming to be free. We are attacked against our belief in Him; and attacked against our healing (saving / salvation) in the here-and-now. This Helmet, because we have a Hopeful Expectation, protects us against that unbelief—for we are Saved, being Saved, and will be Saved.

[Acts 4:8-12](#) (NIV)

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 Jesus is

“the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.”

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

[Philippians 2:12-13](#) (NIV)

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.

[1 Peter 1:3-9](#) (NIV) {PoG}

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 {These trails are a testing and proving} of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls {emotional realm}.

Question: Are you convinced of this/your Salvation (now and eternally) through Christ Jesus?

Response:

- F. The “Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God”. Jesus is the Word made flesh, and it is He who pierces to the core of our being. We can use the Word for ourselves (digging out any flaming arrows that get through the armour); or to use the Word to strike down anything not of the Lord coming at us or in someone else. It is so precise in it’s ability (like a fine scalpel or laser) that it can help you distinguish the complexities of healing in your being—for often we don’t know which and what areas are affected that do need healing (and how).

[John 1:1-5](#) (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

[Hebrews 4:12-13](#) (NIV)

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Question: How can the Word of God get used to strike down any opposition against you (or in you)?

Response:

- G. “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests”. We have that ability to pray—in / through the: Spirit (in Tongues), our heart, our soul (emotional realm), mind, and body. And it’s more than just a “prayer room” time, but a continual awareness, communication, openness, transparency, invitation, and more with the Lord—knowing He is always with you. Not only do we build ourself up, but others.

[1 Thessalonians 5:16-28](#) (NIV)

Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

25 Brothers and sisters, pray for us. 26 Greet all God’s people with a holy kiss. 27 I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

[Jude 1:20-21](#) (NIV)

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Question: What does prayer mean to you? Is it important?

Response:

IV. FURTHER THOUGHT:

A. [Ephesians 2:1-3](#) (NIV)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

[Ephesians 4:17-24](#) (NIV) {PoG}

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

20 That, however, is not the way of life you learned 21 when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the {spirit} of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

[1 Peter 5:8-9](#) (NIV)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Thoughts: The spiritual forces at work wage war on your mind. As radio frequencies flood the air from broadcast towers, so does the devil flood the spiritual airwaves with his deceptions to try and destroy us. It is only the sound of his roar that tries to devour us—this is just intimidation tactics that cannot harm us. Our flesh hears this because of this world we are born in; but we are Born-Again and hear a new voice. This is why we can stand firm when we hear the lion's roar and not fear, for his strength and power is removed ([Revelations 12:10-11](#)).

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