

THE BATTLE

The Breastplate Of Righteousness

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. (NKJV)

Ephesians 6:10-14 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor 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 armor 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. (NIV84)

1. The breastplate protects your heart

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. (NIV84)

Matthew 12:34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (NKJV)

Matthew 15:18-19 "But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander." (NIV84)

2. You have to put on the righteousness of God

Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one." (NIV84)

Isaiah 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags. (NIV84)

Galatians 2:21 "I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!" (NIV84)

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (NIV84)

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. (NIV84)

3. You have to pursue righteous living

1 Timothy 6:11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. (NIV84)

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (NIV)

Proverbs 4:23-27 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

²⁴ Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

²⁵ Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. ²⁶ Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. ²⁷ Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil. (NIV84)

8 Levels of Protection

1. It protects the direction of your life

Proverbs 11:5 The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness. (NIV84)

2. It protects you from evil

Proverbs 11:6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires. (NIV84)

3. It protects your finances

Proverbs 11:18 The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward. (NIV84)

Proverbs 11:28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf. (NIV84)

4. It protects your home

Proverbs 12:7 Wicked men are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous stands firm. (NIV84)

Proverbs 14:11 The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the upright will flourish. (NIV84)

5. It protects you from wrong friendships

Proverbs 12:26 A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. (NIV84)

6. It protects your mouth

Proverbs 12:13 An evil man is trapped by his sinful talk, but a righteous man escapes trouble. (NIV84)

7. It protects the blessings of God upon your life

Proverbs 13:21 Misfortune pursues the sinner, but prosperity is the reward of the righteous. (NIV84)

Proverbs 21:21 He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor. (NIV84)

8. It protects your life

Proverbs 10:2 Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death. (NIV84)

Proverbs 11:4 Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. (NIV84)

Proverbs 11:19 The truly righteous man attains life, but he who pursues evil goes to his death. (NIV84)

Proverbs 13:6 Righteousness guards the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner. (NIV84)

Community Group Questions

1. Why is guarding your heart so important? How does the condition of your heart affect the effectiveness of your life?
2. How does Satan try to convince us that we are right with God without Jesus Christ? How do you obtain righteousness in God ?
3. What power comes from living a righteousness life? In what ways will righteousness protect your life?