RESTORATION & The Power of Prayer



Put on the Belt of Truth

Keepfighting the "Good Fight" of faith in Jesus Christ one-day-at-a-time!

SPIRITUAL ARMORY

- **PUT ON** The Helmet of Salvation
- **PUT ON** The Breastplate of Righteousness
- **PUT ON** The Belt of Truth
- SHOD YOUR FEET with the Gospel of Peace
- HOLD UP The Shield of Faith to extinguish the fiery darts from the evil one
- WIELD The Sword of the Spirit, the Double-edged Word of God

RECAP

The Breastplate of Righteousness
Understanding WHO WE ARE in Jesus Christ

Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit.
By faith, as a divine gift of God's Grace, through the power of Holy Spirit we, as True Believers, now have the "Righteousness of Jesus Christ" is living within us.

RECAP

The Breastplate of Righteousness Understanding WHO WE ARE in Jesus Christ

3. We are Worthy as *true Believers in Jesus Christ*. But be aware we have an ancient enemy, Satan the Master of deception, who wants to keep us in the dark. While his best lie is that one degree from the truth, we have the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but The Truth in Christ Jesus.

LEARN TO DISCERN!

RECAP

The Breastplate of Righteousness Understanding WHO WE ARE in Jesus Christ

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in HIS SUFFERINGS in order that we may also share in His glory.

Roman 8:17

RECAP

The Breastplate of Righteousness

- 1. OPEN DOORS for deception creating footholds which can lead to strongholds:
 - derogatory thoughts that enter in our mind, and we receive
 - unhealed wounds from the past
 - from the words or actions of others in our life

RECAP

The Breastplate of Righteousness

2. RED FLAGS in our character (character defects) that can provide insight to areas of our lives in need of healing. A few include inordinate fear, anxiety, controlling, critical, mocking, addictive behavior, obsession, depression, oversensitive, relationship issues, etc.

3. ROOT CAUSES of wounds in need of healing coming from past hurts perpetrated by individuals or circumstances we have encountered.

RECAP

The Breastplate of Righteousness So, how do we get TRUE freedom? As children of God, we have the right to a healthy emotional life, knowing that we belong, have worth, and are competent individuals. Yet in a temporal world this concept is fleeting because it is built on man's competence. Our righteousness will never measure up.

We are justified through the *Righteousness of Jesus Christ that resides within by means of FAITH, not works*.

R E C A P The Breastplate of Righteousness

The Law set the standard of righteousness, but Jesus is the only one who fulfilled the Law because He was Righteousness Himself. Therefore, by faith in the Messiah and not through the letter of the Law, we have Righteousness abiding within us. Therefore, we are worthy!

R E C A P The Breastplate of Righteousness

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to ALL WHO BELIEVE.

Romans 3:21-26

PUT IT ON!

R E C A P The Breastplate of Righteousness

... in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Romans 8:37

Put on the Belt of Truth

Every day we are to buckle the Belt of Truth around your waist, standing firm... Ephesians 6:14

What is the Truth?

Jesus is the center of our belief, the chief cornerstone upon which our faith is built, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. **HE IS TRUTH!**



Jesus Christ IS the Way, He is the Truth, and He is the Life. The only way to God is through Him.

John 14:6

The Parable of Nassir

Take heart, for it is in the heart that you will find the answer. The following is a simple parable.

As the story goes, there once was a man named Nassir who, for whatever reason or reasons, found himself trapped in a deep, dark, slimy pit with absolutely no visible means of escape. Nassir began to cry out for help— begging and pleading to anyone who might come along and hear his sobbing.

The Parable of Nassir

Alas, along came a friend, someone he knew for sure would help him out, after all, it was his best friend. The closer the friend neared the edge of the pit, the more he realized the dire predicament that Nassir was in, and he became too afraid to help his friend for fear of falling in himself.

And so, the friend, out of his own perceived need of self-preservation, decided to turn away and not be a part of Nassir or his "situation."

The Parable of Nassir

Again, Nassir began to cry out, this time with more intensity. As time passed, along came a counselor- a learned advisor to many people in the nearby village. He heard Nassir's pleas and asked him just how he got into the pit in the first place. The noted counselor began to analyze the many possible reasons why Nassir ended up in this pit.



The Parable of Nassir

After pondering Nassir's situation, the counselor gave him a list of possible solutions for dealing with his circumstance. He even tossed in some medicinal herbs to help Nassir cope with his dire predicament.



The Parable of Nassir

But these strategies only served to frustrate Nassir even further. Although very learned in his profession, the counselor could only go so far as to assist Nassir in finding his way out.

Never quite comprehending the entire picture, the counselor could provide Nassir with limited answers to only part of his dilemma, the result: Nassir was still in the pit.

The Parable of Nassir

As time passed, Nassir began to feel that his situation was hopeless, yet he continued to cry out for help. To his relief, he heard the voice of the local clergyman whom he had heard so many previous times in church. Nassir was sure that this man of God who gave such aweinspiring sermons and tearful testimonials would indeed help him to get out of the pit.



The Parable of Nassir

As the clergyman came to the edge of the pit and solemnly listened to his plight, Nassir thought, "Yes, this clergyman has a direct line to God, and God will surely help me out of this pit." Much to Nassir's amazement, the clergyman began to speculate and to judge why God would put poor Nassir into this pit in the first place and thus preached his well-versed sermon on "Just How God works."



The Parable of Nassir

He filled Nassir with many antidotes for pleasing God. With jubilant anticipation, Nassir was sure that if he could just follow all of the instructions and keep all of the commands, God would be happy with him and *get him out*.

But to no avail, for poor Nassir was still in the pit. Filled with anger and disappointment, he admonished the clergyman for trying to *be* God rather than helping him to *find* God.

The Parable of Nassir

Despair, desperation, and hopelessness were now permeating Nassir's every thought until he felt as if the very life was being drained out of him.

Eventually, with what he felt was his last breath, he cried out, "Lord God, my heavenly Father, I surrender everything! Help me get out of this pit!"

The Parable of Nassir

Deep within the very core of his being, he heard a still, quiet voice clearly say, "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).



The Parable of Nassir

Nassir could now feel new life being poured into his being— a peace that surpassed all understanding and a joy that filled him with unspeakable strength.

He knew his Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, was there in his midst- that He had been there all along, patiently waiting for Nassir to call upon him, because He loved Nassir.

The Parable of Nassir

Christ was not at the edge of the pit calling out instructions. He was in the very midst of the pit *with him*. God had sent Nassir the right hand of righteousness, His only Son Jesus Christ, to personally help him out of the pit.



The Parable of Nassir

And Christ took his hand, his heart and his soul and delivered him from this miry pit of despair and hopelessness. Nassir now knew that he was on the path of salvation and that only Christ would take him every step of the way.



Jesus is the only Way, the only Truth, and the only Life...the only way to God.

It is a Personal Journey with Jesus Christ



Why should we know Jesus personally, and intimately?

Because we can never really know ourselves intimately until we know Jesus Christ intimately.

WHY?

Because He knows us better than we know ourselves.





The Personal Journey is about knowing Jesus Christ intimately; therefore, knowing the TRUTH.

Jesus is the "Living Waters," breaking beyond the limits of our understanding never to be thirsty again.

The Grain of Wheat

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Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a **grain of wheat** falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much **grain**.

John 12:24



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It is about knowing Jesus Christ intimately by means of your **Personal Journey called life**.

This moves us from trying to believe to knowing without a shadow of doubt. Discovering the "Peace That Surpasses All Understanding."

 REMEMBER: Whatever we are focused on the rest of our world will revolve around it.
 a. Anything that you allow to come in between you and your relationship with Christ has the potential to become an idol. What are some potential idols?
 b. DO NOT let your problems become your idol.



- 2. There is a big different between trying to believe and knowing without a shadow of doubt.
 - a. Trying to believe oftentimes involves studying, reading, researching, attending seminars, or following the latest popular preachers with their schools of thought. However, unfortunately, more often than not you end up with the paralysis of analysis. It can be confusing, especially in these days!



- 2. There is a big different between trying to believe and knowing without a shadow of doubt.
 - b. We are not to worship the tools, but rather the source of the tools...God; Father, Son & Holy Spirit.
 - c. Knowing without a shadow of doubt involves personal EXPERIENCE WITH CHRIST!



3. Believing without a shadow of doubt brings mountain-moving faith in your prayers.

So, Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and DOES NOT DOUBT in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask for when you pray believe you receive them, and you shall have them."

Mark 11:22-24



God).

Through the personal journey, we are transformed from the "Old man" (World Belief System, carnal nature, believing the Devil) to the "New man" (Kingdom of God).

It is a transformation taking place through the Holy Spirit's power (sanctification) from the inside out – the FULLNESS OF SALVATION.



Old Testament Versus New Testament Old Covenant to to New Covenant

- Old Testament (old covenant) foreshadowed the coming of Jesus Christ the new foundation in the New Testament (new covenant)
- New Testament fulfills God's promises of Salvation in the Old Testament.



Old Testament Versus New Testament Old Covenant to to New Covenant

- Old Testament God deals mainly with His chosen people. The New Testament God is dealing with His body of Believers.
- Physical blessing in the Old Covenant give way to Spiritual blessings in the New Covenant.
- Old Testament is paradise lost for Adam. The New Testament shows how paradise is regained through Jesus.



"Fighting the good fight of faith in Jesus Christ one-day-at-a-time."



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