

# Spiritual Warfare

Armor: Breastplate  
of Righteousness  
Message 3

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## ► Outline

*Stand firm ... with the breastplate of righteousness in place...*

**Ephesians 6:14 (NIV)**

### A. Introduction

(Ephesians 6:10-14. C/R: 1 Corinthians 6:11;  
2 Corinthians 6:7; Hebrews 10:12,14)

The breastplate of righteousness represents

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Justification = \_\_\_\_\_ perfect righteousness.

Sanctification = \_\_\_\_\_ practical righteousness.

### B. How righteousness resists Satan

#### 1. Justification, being \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

- Removes \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Romans 3:22-26; 8:1-2; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:9-11)

- Rejects \_\_\_\_\_.  
(John 5:24; 10:28-30; Romans 4:5-8; Galatians 5:5)

#### 2. Sanctification, \_\_\_\_\_ more like Jesus...

- Reveals \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Ephesians 4:21-24; Philippians 1:11; 1 Peter 1:15-16;  
1 John 3:7-8)

- Resists \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Romans 6:6,13; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:22)

**Answers:** A. justification, sanctification, declared, developing

B. 1. right, guilt, doubts 2. becoming, faith, temptation

**Resource Information:** Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

## ► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit [brookwoodchurch.org/adults](http://brookwoodchurch.org/adults).

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### Conversation Starter

Describe a time you felt far away from God.

### Begin your study with prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Then ask God for insight and direction as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

### Bible Study and Group Discussion

#### Read Ephesians 6:10-18.

The apostle Paul listed several pieces of armor worn by the Roman soldiers to teach us about the spiritual armor given to us by God. This week our focus is on the **breastplate of righteousness**.

#### Read 1 Corinthians 6:11 in both the NIV and NLT.

1. Justification means *being declared perfectly righteous*. What does it mean to be made right with God? How would you explain Jesus' death and resurrection to someone who doesn't believe?
2. Sanctification means *developing practical righteousness*. How can remembering the gift of salvation inspire you to live like Jesus?
3. What's the relationship between justification and sanctification?

#### Read Romans 4:5-8.

4. What words or phrases are most significant for you? Why?
5. Describe a time you experienced God's forgiveness.
6. Have you ever struggled with doubts about the Bible or salvation? Explain.
7. How can you help someone who has doubts about their faith?

#### Read Romans 6:6-13.

8. How does being *crucified with Christ* enable you to resist temptation?
9. Describe how sin has lost its power in your life.
10. Do you usually feel weighed down by sin or alive in Christ?
11. What part of this passage either encourages or challenges you?

### Spiritual Practice

*A spiritual practice is something we can do to help us live in and enjoy God's grace. We hope these practices become a regular part of your life so that walking and talking with God is the most natural thing you do.*

If you've never had a personal encounter with Jesus, we encourage you to ask questions and learn more. Email us at [adults@brookwoodchurch.org](mailto:adults@brookwoodchurch.org) or call 864.688.8212. We'd love to talk with you about how a relationship with Jesus can change your life forever!

If you're a follower of Jesus, spend time reflecting on the story of your salvation. Where were you when God first became real to you? What happened? Ask God to renew the joy of your salvation (Psalm 51:12) and empower you to live for Him with everything you have (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)!

### Memory Verse

*May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.*

**Philippians 1:11 (NLT)**

### Daily Reading

- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Day 1: 1 Corinthians 6:11 | Day 4: Romans 8:1-2 |
| Day 2: Romans 3:22-26     | Day 5: 1 John 3:7-8 |
| Day 3: Isaiah 61:1-7      |                     |

### Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, October 9, we'll continue the series *Spiritual Warfare*. To prepare, read **Isaiah 52:7-10** and **1 Peter 3:15**.

