

Seek the Lord to Establish His Righteousness



And blessed are all they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost (Matthew 5:8).

The call to repent and become righteous and live out righteousness in our lives is found throughout the scriptures. In Enoch's City the people dwelt in righteousness. *And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness (Doctrine & Covenants 36:2h).* So, we know that it is possible to come up to a higher level and dwell in righteousness. It is what God calls us to do. *Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in righteousness; even that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit (Doctrine & Covenants 59:2e).*

As followers of Christ, we must become righteous. *Put off the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the mind of the Spirit; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:22-24).* I think we all find it difficult to completely put off the natural man who sins and falls short and put on the new man. We do not have a natural inclination to live righteously. In fact, the opposite is true, so we often find ourselves struggling with the many different and varied sins of the flesh. Living righteously happens because we choose to take on Christ. We use our agency to choose Him and His ways and to follow in His footsteps. We must choose to be righteousness and make it a goal; seek after it.

Paul in his writings encourages us to live righteously to become more Christ like. In Ephesians he tells us that not only are we battling the natural man but there are other forces at work. We are battling against the wiles of the devil, against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. But Paul also tells us how to go into combat and be victorious over sin and the wiles of the devil. He says to withstand Satan, be righteous and live out that righteousness we must put on the armor of God. Without it we will fail.



Let's look at what the scriptures have to say about the armor we must put on to become more righteous. *Doctrine & Covenants 26:3e = Wherefore lift up your hearts and rejoice, and gird up your loins, and take upon you my whole armor, that ye may be able to withstand the evil day, having done all ye may be able to stand. Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness.* In the Book of Mormon = We read Lehi's plea to his sons to, *Awake, my sons: put on the armor of righteousness (2 Nephi 1:38).*

In the Bible = Ephesians the 6th chapter, we are given a list of the pieces of armor we are to put on. Paul was using the type of armor a Roman Soldier wore as an example. The first thing listed is "having your loins girt about with truth". The interpretation of that phrase is "To Put on the Belt of Truth". Weapons hung from the belt and also thick strips of leather which protected the loins of the soldier. If a soldier's loins were cut out from underneath him, he would go down and die in battle. The Truth of God protects the very foundation upon which you stand. You must know and understand the truth.

**The order of the pieces of armour
is of upmost importance.**

- 1. Belt of Truth**
- 2. Breastplate of Righteousness**
- 3. Feet Fitted with the Readiness of the Gospel of Peace**
- 4. Shield of Faith**
- 5. Helmet of Salvation**
- 6. Sword of the Spirit/Word of God**

Next let us look at the breastplate of righteousness because it is listed 2nd and is connected to the belt of truth. It was made of strips of metal tied together by pieces of leather. It was lighter and much more flexible than the Knights breastplate made of one solid piece of metal. The breastplate protected the heart and all the vital organs, which if injured would cause death.

The breastplate of righteousness is vital to us staying alive spiritually. This piece of armor is easy to use, it is light and will not weigh us down in battle. God has made it easy for us to put it on and use it but it must connect to the belt of truth or it will slip out of place and not protect us.

To put on the belt of truth we must have a knowledge and understanding of the word of God, and know it is the truth. ***John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.*** The belt also held the scabbard or sword of the Roman soldier. The belt of truth is a sheath for the Sword of the Spirit/Word of God. It also keeps it in place, making it easy to draw it out quickly for spiritual warfare. The belt and the breastplate of righteousness are defensive and the Sword of the Spirit is an offensive weapon but they work together. The world teaches there is no truth, and truth is what we choose to make it. But the Bible teaches that God's word is the standard for truth. So it is that the belt of truth is the sheath for the Sword of the Spirit/Word of God. The belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness, joined together make a formidable defense system.

Just as the breastplate was made of many interlocking strips of metal tied together to protect the vital organs of a soldier, so also, **all the word of God when it is rightly divided and lived out in our lives, works together as interlocking truths, to protect the core values and actions of our life as a follower of Jesus Christ.**

You see the armor all works together. The breastplate must be connected to the belt of truth. The problem is that too often we go forth into our daily activities without putting on the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness and the other armor. Each piece is important. We must put on the armor of God and put it on correctly. Each day we need to seek our Lord early to get our armor on.



Then, once our armor is on how do we go to war? ***Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints (Ephesians 6:18). We go to war by praying. We need to pray that God will assist us in our struggle to live righteously. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen (Moroni 7:53).***

DIGGING DEEPER



Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. And now for a man to take up his cross, is to deny himself all ungodliness, and every worldly lust, and keep my commandments. Break not my commandments for to save your lives; for whosoever will save his life in this world, shall lose it in the world to come (Matthew 16:25-27).

Fundamentals by F. Henry Edwards

F. Henry says: It is imperative that we who hope to build the kingdom of God shall learn to approach life thoughtfully and critically, cultivating the ability to recognize situations in which helpful choices can be made and the strength to make good choices.

Agency operates on a higher plane as we become more wise and strong. Our freedom is advanced as we live in harmony with our insight...the wise man watches himself as though he were in the presence of God. He prays earnestly, searchingly, and frequently. He examines himself in the light of the divine presence. He studies to show himself approved. He decides on the course of life through pondering of the scriptures, careful thinking, and constant prayer.

Sin is abroad in the world. We are living in a state of sin, in the sense that inducements to ungodliness surround us on every side and have

become part of the life we live. None of us is truly free, for all our desires are tainted by the wickedness of the world in which we live and from which we draw our ideas and ideals.

Jesus was the only man in the whole range of history strong enough to be free of his environment; and he willed to do the will of God. He was in perfect accord with his Father and was happy in that accord. He is therefore, our picture of agency at its best. This is what we would want if we were free of the bonds of sin. The wisest course that we can take is to act as though we were free by choosing to be like Jesus...We cannot choose the end without also choosing the means. If we choose to share the mission of Christ, we must by that fact choose to carry the cross with him. Jesus is the way. His life embodies the final truth. He is the pathway to follow that leads us onward and upward to a higher level of righteousness. The kingdom will go hand in hand with improvements in the quality of our righteousness.

ACTION SECTION

This month may we all seek to follow Jesus and establish “His Righteousness” in our daily lives.

There are many great events soon to take place in the later part of this dispensation, in which we are now living. The Lord has told us of the great reunion to take place upon His return, even a great communion service with such as Moroni, John the Baptist, Elijah, Abraham, Issac, Jacob, Peter, James, John and others. **This is a gathering of the righteous.** It is following this description of this gathering that we are told: *Wherefore lift up your hearts and rejoice, and gird up your loins, and take upon you my whole armor, that ye may be able to withstand the evil day, having done all ye may be able to stand. Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, which I have sent mine angels to commit unto you, taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of my Spirit, which I will pour out upon you, and my word which I reveal unto you, and be agreed as touching all things whatsoever ye ask of me, and be*

faithful until I come, and ye shall be caught up, that where I am ye shall be also. Amen (Doctrine & Covenants 26:3d-g).

I think Alma's dissertation on the need for righteousness should spur all of us into seeking the Lord to establish His righteousness: *And now behold, I ask of you, my brethren of the church, Have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye received his image in your countenances? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts? Do ye exercise faith in the redemption of him who created you? Do you look forward with an eye of faith, and view this mortal body raised in immortality, and this corruption raised in incorruption, to stand before God, to be judged according to the deeds which have been done in the mortal body?*



I say unto you, Can you imagine to yourselves that ye hear the voice of the Lord, saying unto you, in that day, Come unto me ye blessed, for behold, your works have been the works of righteousness upon the face of the earth?

Or do ye imagine to yourselves that ye can lie unto the Lord in that day, and say, Lord, our works have been righteous works upon the face of the earth, and that he will save you? Or otherwise, can ye imagine yourselves brought before the tribunal of God, with your souls filled with guilt and remorse; having a remembrance of all your guilt; Yea, a perfect remembrance of all your wickedness; yea, a remembrance that ye have set at defiance the commandments of God?

I say unto you, Can ye look up to God at that day with a pure heart and clean hands? I say unto you, Can you look up, having the image of God engraven upon your countenances (Alma 3:27-37)?



Communion Sunday is a time to examine our lives and repent of those things in our lives that are not Christ like. If we desire to become like Him, we must repent and change. We must seek Him and seek to live out works of righteousness in our daily lives. May we not delay any longer but let us put on the robe of righteousness and prepare to meet Him. May the coming month be a month of change for all of us as we respond to the call to become like Him and bring forth works of righteousness.

Behold, he sendeth an invitation unto all men; for the arms of mercy are extended towards them, and he saith, Repent, and I will receive you; Yea, he saith, Come unto me and ye shall partake of the fruit of the tree of life; yea, ye shall eat and drink of the bread and the waters of life freely; Yea, come unto me and bring forth works of righteousness, and ye shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire (Alma 3:57-59).

**Are you ready to accept the invitation?
Come Unto Me and Bring Forth Works of Righteousness**

