

TENACITY

Preparing for War [Part 1] [Ephesians 6:14-15]

[1] Belt of Truth [Isaiah 11:5]

- [a] Take off the lies and "put on truth"
[Living in our new identity - in Christ]
- [b] Bear fruit in Christ [Ephesians 5:9]

[2] Breastplate of Righteousness [Isaiah 59:17]

- [a] Be overwhelmed by grace [Rom. 3:21-22]
[Gaining a full knowledge and appreciation of
our new identity in Christ, especially as it
pertains to Christ as our righteousness - ECNT]
- [b] Cultivate your integrity ⇒ holiness

[3] Shoes of Peaceful Proclamation [Isaiah 52:7]

- [a] Know the Gospel Message of Peace
- [b] Prepare to Share the Message of Peace

Discussion Questions/Prayer

1. Read Isaiah 11:1-2 and Galatians 5:22-23. Compare the Fruit of the Spirit with the list of Spirit-driven characteristics listed in Isaiah. How do they relate to each other? What insight do these verses give us about the power available to us in Christ through the Spirit and how we should live in our new identity?
2. C.S. Lewis was in a debate and was asked what was so unique about Christianity and he said, "What's unique about Christianity? Oh, that's easy. Its grace." Does it overwhelm you when you think about God's extension of grace to you? Does it translate into bearing fruit?
3. Read Ephesians 6:15. How long has it been since you shared the gospel with someone who does not know Jesus yet? Pray for God to give you the burden to pray for an opportunity to live out and share the gospel with those who do not know Jesus yet. [Who's your one?]
4. Take time to thank God for the pieces of protective armor we explored this week.

Ephesians 6:10-15 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

Isaiah 11:1-5 [NLT] Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot— yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root. ² And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him [Jesus] — the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ He will delight in obeying the Lord. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay.

⁴ He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited. The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked. ⁵ He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Ephesians 5:8-12 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

Isaiah 59:17 He put on righteousness as a breastplate, . . .

Isaiah 59:14 Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter.

Isaiah 59:20 . . . a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression, declares the Lord.

Romans 3:21-22 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

Isaiah 52:7 [Paul uses in Romans 10:15] How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes [announces] peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."