

## **Expose 76 K40**

### **Bulletproof Vest of Righteousness**

Good morning this is Expose 247. I want to say to you welcome to Justice, welcome to fair hearing, welcome to where God is the just judge and we have Jesus as the mediator, the in-between, the advocator, the advocate and so you can't be luckier than that, to have your go in between, your go in person and so I want to ask who is that person that bring up charge against God's elect? It is the Lord that justify.

So this morning am calling out for those people who are not novice, those people who are skilled in the Word of righteousness, those people whose tongues are like the pen of a ready writer and they know how to execute the judgment that is long written.

And so if you are not part of that, then we are going to extend the invitation to you to come so that you can learn, this is an opportunity for you to know how use the Word of righteousness, how to deck up and put on your breastplate of righteousness which is the bullet proof vest against the condemnation and accusation of the enemy. That was what we discussed yesterday and we are going to kick off with that.

Now, viewers thank you again for tuning in to this Knock Out series. Yesterday we began to look at this bullet proof of righteousness and we began to make reference to the weapon of mass destruction which is what the enemy target against the Christians.

Now today we are going to continue in the line of that revelation and you want to join us. Don't forget when we began to look at this warfare series, we made one point know that the Bible simply says in Ephesians Chapter 6 that the only reason why we can guaranty that we will stand at the end of the day is, if we put on not just the armor, the full armor, the complete armor. So we've been going through every single item in our armory as a Christian.

And before we continue today, let us make this bold statement that simply says, that all the devil has against a Christian is schemes, is what we call antics, is what we call wiles of the devil, tricks of the devil. That is all he has. He has nothing more than that. Because he knows how powerful God has made you through the cross.

And one thing you have to understand is, Colossian Chapter 3 says that your life is hid with Christ in God. What that means is Satan cannot access your destiny. Satan cannot destroy you, it is impossible, because the gospel, the redemption in Christ Jesus brought you into Christ in God. You are locked away. So if the devil can do nothing about your destiny, if Satan cannot curse you, if the devil cannot manipulate your

destiny, if the devil cannot destroy you, then what does he have left to do? Tricks, schemes, antics and those are the very things that Bible says we need to take our stand against. We are not taking stand against Satan. Against the wiles, the schemes of the devil.

And we've been looking at one of the armory that the scriptures has given to us in Ephesians 6:14 against one of the schemes of the devil. If the Bible says he has schemes, it means it's not one. He has different ones. Even for some people, what works for Mr A might not work for Mr B. So we are looking at one of those schemes.

And yesterday we looked at the fact that he tries to disqualify you from laying hold upon what Christ paid for at redemption. We are going to continue with that today.

Now, I want you to follow me quickly to 1Thessalonians Chapter 5 verse 8 as we kick off in this particular armory that we are looking at. We can simply call this, survival series. Can you see that?

1Thessalonians Chapter 5 verse 8, if you have that you can read please,

Now, this is what we are going to look at as we begin to explore this particular armory of the breastplate of which we actually call the bullet proof vest of righteousness.

Now watch this closely,

Now don't forget that Ephesians 6:14 tells us that we should put on the breastplate of righteousness.

Now, please look at this 1Thessalonians Chapter 5 verse 8 and see what he has to say to us this morning.

### **1Thessalonians 5:8**

**8. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.**

Now that is a bit strange. That is very strange and this is the reason, because I can take you all the way back to Ephesians 6:14 now. If you have your scriptures or your Bible you can check that quickly. What he says there is the breastplate of righteousness but in this 1Thessalonians Chapter 5 verse 8 then he turns around and say, well, the breastplate of righteousness (Ephesians 6:14) is actually the breastplate of faith and love.

Now, what ground do we have to make a comparison between 1Thessalonians 5:8 and Ephesians 6:14? Well if you continue in that 1Thessalonians 5:8, he simply says the helmet of salvation. And if you go to Ephesians 6:14, he talks about the helmet of

salvation. It means we can completely rely on the fact that he is talking about the very same thing that he referred to in Ephesians 6:14 is the same thing he is referring to in 1Thessalonians 5:8.

It will seem the Apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit was consistent in the helmet of salvation in both verses, Ephesians 6:14 and 1Thessalonians 5:8. But it now seem that he is giving us a different perspective to the breastplate of righteousness. He calls it in 1Thessalonians 5:8, he says is the breastplate of faith and love. It will seem that the Holy Spirit is speaking to the church, and saying that what I call the breastplate of righteousness seem to be double edged. It seems to be a double edged sword. That the breastplate of righteousness has to two angles to it, there is the angle of faith and love, and there is a reason why he is doing this.

Yesterday if you are with us, we talked about being skillful in the Word of righteousness. And the Bible says those who are novices, those who are babies in Christ are people not just because you've just being born again for few days, that is not the reason why you are novice. It's not because you've just be in church for few days, that is not why you are a novice. Please if you can take time to listen to yesterday transmission, we said a novice is somebody who is not skill in the Word of righteousness.

Here is the Apostle Paul saying that this breastplate of righteousness, has two angles, the angel of faith and love. And we see the reason why, he has already said this, don't forget it's meant to protect our chest area, the breast area, that is why he call it the breast plate of righteousness, the breast region. The enemy is firing something at your breast area, at your chest area and he says this armory is meant to protect it. But he gives us an insight now, he said this armory of righteousness has the angle of faith and love.

And let's see why he is actually saying this, why these two angles? We have to be skillful now in using this Word of righteousness. And before we continue, why would the Bible calls it the Word of righteousness? It will mean that this righteousness speaks. Can you see that? It speaks! The reason why we said that is, Romans Chapter 10 verse 6 down there will tell you that, the righteousness which is of faith does not speak on this wise, then what does it says? It means it talks, is the Word of righteousness. It's speaking righteousness.

Now, let see why the Apostle Paul made reference to this two angles of faith and love to this righteousness. And how can we take this on in spiritual warfare for survival.

Let's go through that quickly.

Go to 1Timothy Chapter 3.

We began to look at it yesterday, we've just laid the background for this.

1Timothy Chapter 3, and if you look at verse 5, that is where we actually read a bit of that. Today this morning, we are going to explore that further.

Look at 1Timothy 3 from verse 5

### **1 Timothy 3:5**

**(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)**

Yesterday we talked about the fact that he is talking about the qualification for somebody to be a deacon or for somebody to be a church leader. That is what he is talking about in this case.

Go on please

**6. Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.**

**Not a novice,**

And we talked about what that means yesterday and if you don't understand please check our yesterday transmission.

**lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.**

Now, he's trying to show you and I... the Apostle Paul by the Holy spirit is trying to reveal what we call the weapon now, as you might call it what is being targeted at the breast region of the Christians or what the enemy is throwing at the believer.

You see, for example, if I come to you today to in a way advertise a particular medicine or I've come to advertise a particular product am selling, of course the only reason why I can convince you to buy that product is if I tell you the implication of not having it. That is what sales men do. They try to tell you that if you don't have this particular product, life is going to be hard for you, or things will not work easily or you will have some kind of negative things happening to you, unless you have this particular product to solve the problem. And because they can give you a reason why having that product is critical that is why you buy it.

Now, the Apostle Paul is trying to give us a motivation to put on this bullet proof of righteousness. He is trying to say, I will tell you what the enemy target at you. And I will tell you the reason why am telling you to put on this bullet proof of righteousness.

So now, watch this, what he is going to say next in this 1Timothy 3 are the things that the enemy is flinging at the believer.

So this is the reason, he is going to drive us into the motivation point of taking on this breastplate.

Now see this, we take this slowly, this is what the enemy is shooting at the believer. What will he do to the novice? Somebody who is unskilled in the Word of righteousness? What is the enemy throwing?

Let the scriptures answer that question.

**Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.**

That is the very first thing he throws at him. **Lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.**

He said if he is a novice, if he is unskillful in the Word of righteousness. Something will attack him quickly. Something is going to target his heart. Something will target his soul and the very first thing he comes up is pride. Why would he talk about this? Don't forget this, let take this slowly again,

The 1Thessalonians 5 that we read told us that the breastplate of righteousness has two angles. Don't forget that. He said the angle of faith and the angle of love. Why is that? Then 1Timothy Chapter 3 then tell us that the enemy is targeting things. What is he targeting? He said the first thing is this novice can be lifted up with pride. First target! That is the first target thrown at him. The first thing the enemy is throwing at him.

What is the second then?

What does he says next?

**...he fall into the condemnation of the devil.**

Ok.

Now, how many things are mentioned there? He says first, the novice who is unskillful in the Word of righteousness is actually susceptible to being thrown with pride and then also... you know it's a bit strange.

He said, watch this! This is a very strange thing. He said being lifted up and then fall into condemnation.

Well, this a bit weird. This is really strange, he is being lifted up in one side and he is being thrown down. He said, fallen... he said the enemy's attack on the breast of a Christian, the enemy attack on a chest of a Christian is double fold, is double headed. It does something to him that makes him lifted up and it does something to him that makes him fall down.

And this then explain the reason why 1Thessalonian Chapter 5 verse 8 then tells you and I, that what I call the breastplate of righteousness in Ephesians 6:14 actually has two sides. This breastplate of righteousness has the side of faith and the side of love. The reason why he has both side or both head is because when the enemy comes to attack your sense of righteousness, he also come in a two headed manner.

Now, watch this! This is what the Holy Ghost is saying to you and I. That is the reason why the Bible says you need to be skillful in the Word of righteousness. The reason why he says you need to be skillful is because, you need to know how to turn this weapon because, when the enemy comes with this one, you are there, when it comes with that one you are there.

Now, how then do we make use of this? How do we develop this? How do we put on this bulletproof of righteousness to deal with this double attack of the enemy? Then follow us through.

Now, we've laid the foundation of why the Apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit did say that the breastplate of righteousness is actually that of faith and love because he knows the enemy is coming in both direction. **He is coming first with lifting you up with pride and he is coming also trying to fall you down into condemnation.**

Follow us quickly, we are going somewhere this morning by the spirit of grace. Now again, let go on straight on because we are going to explore this, to the book of Romans. How does a Christian put on this bullet proof of righteousness against this double attack of the enemy? He needs the breast plate of righteousness or the breastplate of faith and love. Because the attack is a double attack from the enemy.

Look at Romans Chapter 4, am going to look by the spirit of grace into the first one. The very first one that is attacking the novice.

Now, if you can read that from verse 1.

Now, watch this!

**Romans4:1**

**1. What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh hath found?**

What did Abraham found? Question!

**2. For if Abraham were justified by works he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.**

Now, don't forget the thing the enemy throws at the chest or the heart of a Christian as we saw in 1Timothy 3 from verse 5, he says lest the novice be lifted up with pride. So now, then he says for you to just block that from happening to you, he said just put on the breastplate of righteousness. And the very first angle of 1Thessalonians Chapter 5 say is of faith. He talks of Abraham that if Abraham had anywhere to boast not before God. He is telling you something about faith now.

Now, let's go on

**3. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted**

Why would Abraham believed God? Why would he have faith in God? That is the question you want to ask. Why do we have faith in God? And verse 2 tells you and I that the reason why Abraham had to resort to faith, he had no choice, was because in verse 2 of Romans 4, Bible says he had nowhere to boast, nowhere to glory. If you have the NIV translation, he used the word he had nowhere to boast.

And I will tell you the reason why he said that. For example if you are working for a company, then the reason why they pay your wages or salary at the end of the month or end of the week is because what they are paying you is what you deserve as it were. It means, you've worked and then you could boast and say I deserve to be paid a thousand or two thousand or ten thousand because that is what I've actually worked for. But the Bible says concerning Abraham that he couldn't actually boast. He couldn't glory because he couldn't meet up the demands of God.

And so Abraham knew that everything that he had from God was because God had to credit it to him. And the Bible says it save him from boasting. You couldn't boast about it. You could only boast about what you deserve. If you knew you never deserve anything. If you knew you didn't deserve God's favour, if you knew you didn't deserve God's goodness, then there is no ground for being proud.

And that is why the Bible tell us, if you are going to put on the breastplate, the bullet proof of righteousness, you have to start from the angle of faith. That is why he said concerning a novice, who was made a Bishop. He said the reason why he can actually be lifted up with pride, start to boast, is because he doesn't even understand that the

stand point is the stand of faith. He has no ground for boasting. It means, if they make him a leader, or they make him the head of a pack in the ministry, he has to understand that he never deserve anything. He is actually a sinner, he doesn't deserve anything, he doesn't even deserve to be a leader. And the reason why he is a leader has to be completely by the share grace of God.

The Bible says if we receive this by faith. If we know that we got it by faith. It insulates your heart against pride. That is why he says the breastplate of righteousness has to first be that of faith (1Thessalonians 5:8), has to be first of faith. So Abraham had no ground for boasting. It means, it never matter what Abraham achieved. It never matter how far Abraham walk with God. Abraham all his life never had any ground for pride, never had any ground to boast.

Am going to read the Message translation so you can see what this has to say. Don't forget the Bible says every child of God who does not insulate his heart in this revelation first has the temptation of being lifted up in pride. That is what the enemy throws at our chest region.

Now, look at what Romans Chapter 4, am going to read the Message translation so you can get this deeper.

#### **Romans 4 (Message Translation)**

**How do we fix what we know of Abraham? Our first father in the faith, into this new way of looking at things.**

**Now if Abraham by what he did for God, got God to approve him, he could certainly have taken credit for it. But the story we were given is a God's story, not an Abraham's story.**

It's not about Abraham now.

**What we read in the scriptures is this, Abraham entered into what God was doing in and that is the turning point. He trusted God to set him right, instead of trying to be right on his own.**

**4. If you are a hardworker, and do a good job, you deserve your pay.** This is not my words, am quoting the scriptures now..

He said

**If you are a hard worker, and do a very good job, you deserve your pay. But we don't call your wages a gift, but if you see that the job is too big for you and is**



**something only God can do then you trust him to do it, you could never do it for yourself no matter how hard and how long you work.**

**Well, that trusting him to do it is what goes on to get you right with God.**

Can you see?

It means he is simply saying if you get to a point where you understand that whatever approval you have, whether as a follower in the place of worship or as a leader, whatever approval you are given. He said you've come to a point to know that there was nothing you could have done to earn it.

The reason why people fall into pride, the reason why people become boastful is because they think or they've come to allow the enemy to throw something at them, that makes them think you know what? The reason why I am made a bishop in this place is because am the best, is because I have been in ministry for 35 years.

In fact some people, you cannot talk to them anyhow, if you talk to them anyhow, they will tell you do you know how long I have been in ministry? Do you know how far, I sacrifice my life and everything to be where I am today? People make reference to things to give them the reason why they believed they should be where they are at that point and that place in their destiny. When you do such things, the Bible says you have been dropping your breastplate of righteousness because your bulletproof of righteousness must start from the angle of faith. And if it start from the angle of faith, it insulates you against pride.

That is why the Bible says if you make a novice a Bishop, the very first thing the enemy throws at him, he throws at him to lift him up in pride. And the Apostle Paul says we can insulate ourselves against that by starting first from the breastplate of faith, knowing that our approval is completely from the Lord. And we have nothing to contribute to it. We are insulated against that very first attack that we've seen there.

Yeah is such a big relief to know that the wisdom of God is seen in this, in which he design our weapon. We have the two high dry headed demon, the monster coming at us in two angles. At two head, the high dry headed monster and we have our breastplate of righteousness two prong too... so the breastplate of righteousness as we can see the establishment in 1 Timothy 3 today that it has the angle of faith and angle of love. And we see that if we have the angle of faith then we cannot come to pride. There is nothing to boast about.

So many people have the angle... is not even about the number of years they have done in ministry, who they even sit under, where they are privilege to head... say

yes...if you know you are sitting under this person, do you know who I sat under, do you know who mentor me? Do you know what I have listened to? Revelations! This is what I heard, this is the revelation that comes this particular year. Before they say a word or two they always refer to I have a special dream, I saw... that is a novice, unskillful in the Word of righteousness.

Because people might think this thing are far fetched. We are just trying to draw a practical example to see it is closer than you think. So people have a sense of justification for where they are based on what and based on what they have seen or what they are privilege and opportunity and they are easy to rob it on that I deserve it, I've earned this. But we saw the life of Abraham, nothing to boast of, he did not earn it. If he has done a good job like Message (Translation) has put it. He deserve the pay. Yes he deserve the pay. But yes, this is a job he cannot do. He said too much for him because to meet up God's standard. It was too much for Abraham.

So we breaking this job for you to know that it's a job you cannot do yourself. So that is the thing. It's a job you cannot get any pay for. It's the Lord that can do the job himself. He's the one that cut the job. He is the one that can fit his neck on that job. He said we are unprofitable servant, we've only done what we are asked to do.

So we are going to insulate ourselves, defend ourselves against the weapon of pride. That is the attack. Weapon and beginning to position our breastplate of righteousness and say yes, I have this first thron against the weapon of pride. I hope you are listening and paying attention to what we are sharing this morning. It is for your safety. It is for your survival. You really need to know how to survive.

Have you then notice that like we've been highlighting from yesterday and today the fact that, this notion of a novice then seems to be driving the point back home to us that a novice according to Hebrews 5 verse 11 to verse 13, you can read it, is just simply someone who is unskillful in the Word of righteousness. Can you see? And the Bible says if somebody has not begun to implement the breastplate of righteousness, if he has not begun to put on the bulletproof of righteousness, they are susceptible to the attack of pride. It means they've not come to a point where they know that all they are, how far they have gone in God is simply all by grace. You deserve nothing. Even if God will give you what you deserve, you deserve death. If God will give you what you deserve, you deserve failure.

And let's say this if you ever think you deserve anything just because of how far you've come with God, I will simply say to you, you don't know God's standard. The Bible says the reason why the law was given; so that every mouth can be stopped. If you think you are good enough, if you think say yes I've think I have tried, that is why

I deserve to be made a Bishop, that is why I deserve to be the one in charge of the pack. It means you don't know the high standards of God. God standards are too high. The Bible says Abraham was overwhelmed. He knew that it was too much for him to do anything about it. Abraham had to say well, I think I need to receive this, this will need to be received. It can't be achieved. It has to be received.

And the Bible says in 1Corinthians 6, if you receive it why are you behaving like you did not receive it. He says there is nothing that you have, that you have not received. That is why the breastplate of righteousness must start from the angle of faith. And that is why 1Thessalonians 5 says this same breastplate of righteousness is the same breastplate of faith and love.

So we've seen how the immunity works against the very first attack of the enemy. And let's see why the Apostle Paul says and of love. And if you look at that... I mean one thing we want to look at then is this aspect.

Let's look at that quickly, back to 1Timothy 3 that we've actually read.

Let's read that,

Now we've seen he said,

**lest being lifted up with pride.**

You see before I go to the B part of that verse 6, it might be surprising to you that it doesn't matter to the enemy if somebody is lifted up. Can you see! He says lifted up with pride... because this person is actually thinking the fact that they deserve this office of a Bishop.

And that is what we see in ministry or places where people begin to fight and say well, why will they make Mr A the leader, I should be the one to be the leader? And you ask them why do you think so? They said of course I've been here for so many year. Well, such people are novice they are unskillful in the Word of righteousness. They are already being targeted already by the enemy.

Now, look at what he says,

Can you read the B part of that statement?

**1Timothy 3:6**

**...lest being lifted up with pride, he fall into the condemnation of the devil.**

So the A part is, you can see the first weapon and then he says the same enemy, the same devil who actually targeted the believer with the very first weapon. Then can

also switch the weapon. That is why the Bible says. There are schemes Plural!  
2Corinthians 2: 11 says we are not ignorant of the schemes, plural!

So the same one that actually projected something unto the breast region of a believer, that lifted him up with pride, then switches half way and then does something and throws something at him that makes him again fall into condemnation.

Now, this is amazing. Why would you fall into condemnation? It will mean that at every point in time, or at any stage in time, in your walk with God, things will happen, it could be mistake or it could be errors or whatever things happen and as soon as those things happened, the same enemy will then come and simply say can you see because of this, because of that in your life and in your experience, because of this thing that gone wrong, because of this thing that you did not actually do, or you didn't meet up the demand of God, you don't qualify to walk in the fullness of God's blessing. Condemnation! The same devil that lifted him up with pride switches halfway and makes him fall down into condemnation. The fallen down there means depression. It makes him fall below, doesn't meet up the standard.

Watch the word! Every time condemnation is used, it means disqualification. Can you see the Word fall down into condemnation? It means it doesn't meet up anymore for somebody who should be blessed by God. It doesn't meet up anymore for somebody who can wake up in the morning and said, Father everything you have for me in Christ Jesus, am going to walk in them. The devil comes and say No! You are going to fall below, you don't even meet up anymore, you don't deserve God's goodness, you are not going to get the favour of God today, why because you have not meet up with God's standard. He said the devil can bring that against your heart as well.

The same one that brought something that get you lifted with pride can bring something that makes you fall down into condemnation. And that is the reason why 1Thessalonians Chapter 5 verse 8 then give us a second angle of the breastplate of righteousness and said you will need also to walk in the revelation of love. He said, faith and love. See the breastplate! Why love? Love in the sense that you've come to a point where you understand that you are love by God unconditionally. It doesn't depend on your performance. So when the enemy brings this condemnation, you can throw in the card of love from the Father.

Let's see how the scriptures is going to clarify this for us. Let's go quickly to Romans Chapter 8, don't forget we are talking about putting on the breastplate of righteousness which 1Thessalonians call the breastplate of faith and love.

Now, we are on the second angle which is love.

You can read from verse 31

### **Romans 8:31**

**31. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?**

**32. He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?**

Can you see that?

He said

**God delivered his son all, how shall he not also freely give us all things?**

He is talking about receiving now. It means, he says well, all that God had to do is just to make us received the offer of his son Jesus. It means we couldn't even come up with anything from our own angle. You could call that faith. We have to just receive the offer of his son.

And then why would God do that? That is by faith.

Now, look at the next verse, that is what we are looking to. Because you might want to say the breastplate of faith is the one that comes there when he says the fact that God has to offer up his son. God has simply says all humanity is useless, there is nothing we can do for ourselves. We can't even save ourselves. He offered his son. That is not what we are focusing on now, we are focusing on the next verse.

Watch verse 33

**33. Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.**

Now, that is talking about accusation, condemnation. Can anybody come and tell God's elect that well, there is a charge against you. You are disqualified. This is why you cannot be too sure that God is going to come through for you in your situation. He said who is the person that will do that? Who will actually lay a charge against you? Who want to throw condemnation into your heart? Who is attacking you with condemnation? That is the question is asking.

Who is trying to lay charge against God's elect?

What does he says next?

**34. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.**

### **Who is he that condemneth?**

Who is trying to condemn you? Who is trying to lay charge against you? That is what he says

Go on please,

**It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.**

Can you see?

Now, he said who is making intercession for us.

Now you see, as a Christian you need to have this revelation. If Christ died for you, if Christ paid the price at Calvary and he died and resurrected, why would Jesus continue in the ministry of intercession? He says Christ is making intercession.

Now, if you are wondering that question, the answer to that questions is in Hebrews Chapter 7. It tells us the ministry of intercession. He says the reason why Christ is still interceding, it's not because he has not justified. He is interceding because he knows you are here on earth and things will happen to you and you will fall into errors. There are things that wouldn't walk right around your life and then once the enemy then begin to come and say you know what? That is the reason why God cannot bless you anymore. And he says well, there is somebody interceding. You have an advocating currently with the Father. He is not a past advocate. He said he is interceding. The word is a continuous tense, interceding for you. Why? He is interceding to lay your case before the Father and say Father, I know something has happened to my son, I know something has happen to him but you know what? You have to bless him because of me.

So the reason why he is currently interceding is because he is taking your case up with the Father so that the enemy cannot lay any case against you as we are talking. That is the current ministry of Christ in the heavenly place.

Now go on please,

**35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**

That is the word! That is the word! That is why we said... he said if you believe or if you don't want the enemy to throw accusation at you, if you don't want the enemy to succeed in targeting your heart or your breast region with accusation and

condemnation. He said, then you have to understand that nothing can separate you from the love of Christ.

Now, we see the reason why the Apostle Paul then encourage the Christians in 1Thessalonians Chapter 5 from verse 8, verse 9 where he says, he call it the breastplate of righteousness, but he says this breastplate is of faith and love. Faith to guard you against pride, of love to guard you against accusation and condemnation. We see the combination of this two weapon in 1Timothy Chapter 3 verse 6.

Now see what he says, he says what then shall separate you from the love of Christ?

Go on please,

**shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**

Your experience, any bad experience, any terrible experience, tribulation. He says it doesn't matter what it is. You can read all those things that are there. These are the things that happen to believers. Most Christians have become circumstantial Christians. I call them experiential Christians. Christians who judge the approval rating with God based on their performance. Just like celebrity judge their approval ratings on a daily basis to see whether they are still in vogue or they have lost it with the people. And some Christians actually are walking in that same mentality where we believe our approval rating are based on our circumstances.

But this is why Romans 8:35 says is like a loudspeaker. It is speaking to the heart and the conscience of every believer. He said come let's talk about it. God says let's reason, what is it that can separate from the love of Christ? Then he mentioned from verse 35, verse 36 different types of circumstances. He mentioned different kind of situation. And he said, let's talk about it. Let's reason, which of them? Which of those circumstances do you think can diminish the love that God has towards you? Which of them can lower that love? Which of them can blow off that love? None of them. He said, nothing can separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

So what the scriptures is telling you and I, we need to take on this breastplate of love if we will not fall into the accusation and condemnation of the devil. That is why he says from Romans Chapter 8 from verse 31 to verse 35, he connects accusation with love. And that is why the Apostle Paul says if we put on the bullet proof of righteousness, it must be done in the revelation of faith and love.

So this morning what we are doing is just to let you to appreciate this breastplate of righteousness or bullet proof vest of faith and love by you taking it up and having a

play around it, have a feel around it. So you can be skilful in the Word of righteousness. Let your hand go round, let your mind go round all the two edges so you know how it works. Because am sure in Defense Academy, they will do something like that, giving people to have the time around this weapon, because beyond what we're saying, you really need to spent time around these things, feeling the edges.

And that is what we are doing for you this morning for you to feel the edges, for you to feel the edges making you go through all the surfaces and see how it will works and how its shaped so you can understand how is shape for your protection and defense. So you can rely when you see the structure, the technicality in it. The wisdom that goes behind the design, the design of the breastplate of righteousness. That is why we are laying it on the table for you, the wisdom behind it. Because the devil is coming with that attack of pride and condemnation simultaneously.

So we are taking you through the structure. We are taking you through the workings and the diagram and making you to feel through all the surfaces and know that, this is how it is. So you can rest in that confidence that as long as you have it all, there is no way you can fall for either one.

I hope you will appreciate what we are doing this morning and you are having your mind, that you are going through this things to be able to appreciate it. It's what you appreciate that you can really understand and you can really apply.

Thank you for that insight. God bless you.

Before we continue this morning, like she had said, all we are doing this morning is to identify the structure or the design of this particular armory which is the breastplate of righteousness which is also call the breastplate of faith and love.

Now, if you look at Romans 8:31, I will read from the Message translation so that we can have another insight actually in a modern, contemporary language.

### **Romans 8:31 (Message Translation)**

**What do you think with God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition, exposing himself to the worst by sending his own son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us?**

That is a question.



**Who will dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen ones? Who will dare even point a finger? Who will dare? the one who died for us, who has raised us to life for us, in the presence of God and at the very moment is sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ love for us? Do you think?**

Do you think so? Do you think so?

He said well, if you have the revelation of God's love, you will know there is nothing that can separate you from that love.

And let's go back to 1 Timothy 3.

So now see from 1 Timothy 3:5, you want to say something?

Yes, I want to say about the second aspect of it, the defense of love against condemnation. Defense of faith against pride.

This defense of love against condemnation is very important which we want our viewers to take very serious and to think seriously about it because we see the enemy coming and feel like Ok this is why this is happening to you because you have not.. just like you said, circumstantial Christian, you are no longer loved of God again, that is why so many people walk so that they can stay... some of them, feel love by God.

Apart from some, doesn't even like not leaving things to chance. They are really overworking themselves, overstressing themselves, they feel they want to earn this work. They are not smart like Abraham that saw the overwhelming nature of the task and said it doesn't make any sense, it's just stupid to do this. It doesn't make any sense.

And so some are struggling every day to work for this things. To earn this and they are even smearing themselves with sorrow to stay on this, because they know that if they don't walk up to this level, they will stay condemned. So they actually set the standard for themselves and they are really working hard.

And that's why we are telling you to understand the eternal nature of God's love, you are accepted in the beloved. It can't get simpler than that. For you to really understand this, the love that the Father has for you... he says what can separate you from the love? That love you are not the one that chose him. He chose you even while you are yet sinner.

So that scriptural verse should knock sense into us that while we are yet sinner, while we are incapable of doing anything good how much now that have come into Christ.

While you are yet sinner, while you are incapable of doing anything good. You don't have the conscious to even do anything good. You cannot even think it. You don't have the moral right and everything, the bearing to do anything good, he loved you and so how much more when you are now the righteousness of God? How much more?

So why would you not walk yourself to frenzy to do this and feel like you can overwork it. You feel you can pay back somebody who loved you when you are incapable of doing anything.

So I want you to rest your consciousness, rest your mind on this eternal nature of God's love. It's not the one that goes to you as you do. It is eternal, saying you are accepted forever in the beloved. And that is against the condemnation. And he is asking, who is he? for who the Lord died for? How can you bring a charge against someone that is being loved unconditionally?

The Message (Translation) says, who can dare point a finger? Who can? Who is going to try that? Well he knows somebody is going to try that, that is the devil. And Bible say how dares he? meaning if he ever points a finger at you and it works, it will mean that the bullet proof of righteousness wasn't in place. You have not taken it up and that is why he says take it up. He said put it on, if it happens, it's not about the bulletproof because its already properly shaped for this, but if we don't put it on, or somebody who just want to put on the other side and not put the other side like that and not position for it.

And I want to bring our viewers back to the prodigal father series. We have a series on it, you might need to listen to this at this point, because that was what the father was telling the son. You are the son, so it's not about what the younger son did. He messed up big time, but the father said, your coming back to me and your acceptance is because you are son. And it is the same message for the elder brother too, he was saying you are son. You are son! Everything is not about what they do, the one that does right or the one that does the wrong thing. He is about your access and you being thinking that you have the right to what I have is just because you are a son. And that is how it is with us. Just because we are son, just because he has loved us, just because we are adopted, and that is all.

We don't need any extra qualification. Because the two brothers found out that they don't need any extra qualification. At the end, the elder brother know about that, that he doesn't need extra qualification when he was working himself to frenzy because of that. Not that we are disqualifying that, but working yourself to earn what is yours, it doesn't make any sense.

And so that is why we are talking about it, that you don't want to end up like that, like any of those two sons. You don't want to end up like that and know that you are son and that all the Father has is yours. So you are loved forever, he freely gave up his son for you, so you are loved,

So wherever this condemnation and accusation is coming, just remember that you have this bullet proof vest, just put out the angle of love against condemnation. Anything that want to bring you down, say am eternally loved. How can I come down? What can separate me? not even distress, not famine, not persecution, nothing! It was listed there. You need to go into it. He listed virtually lots of diverse circumstances. Romans Chapter 8:35 and that is what he is saying there.

Now, as we carry on with this, don't forget this is survival. This is survival. Now, you see, let's make this point about this 1Timothy 3. We are not even saying whether this Bishop or this person that is going to be appointed the Bishop that the Apostle Paul was waning against. We are not even saying this particular person is going to engage in some outright sin or whatever. There is nothing there that talks about this person engaging in some ungodliness, or immorality or unrighteousness. He didn't say anything like that. It means the devil can work with anything when it comes to condemnation. Even if you are not an "outright external sinner," he can work with anything.

In fact the devil can work with things as strange as this. He can simply say well, have you read your Bible enough today? Well, have you prayed long enough today? Well, the reason why today might not look good for you out there is because have you pray enough? or do you think God will favor you today? or how much of tithe and offering have you given in the past few weeks where you worship? or have you done this?

He knows what works for every single type of Christians. And all he does is, he points finger. Messages (Translation) says who dare point fingers at God's elect? What he does is point fingers. In fact the name devil, the name Satan we say the other time means **diabolus**, the person who gives alternative explanation to whatever God says. In fact another meaning if you check any concordance, it tells you is a slander. That is what it means. Satan the slanderer, the accuser of the brethren. That is about him. He points fingers.

Even if you are not an outright sinner, I don't care how clean your think your life is, if you don't put on this angle of love as a breastplate, what happens is, Satan will find something that you are not doing perfectly in your life. He will look for something. I don't care how good you try to live life. He will look for something and he will tell you because you didn't do that, that is why God will not bless you today. Because you

didn't give that offering, because you didn't give that tithe, because you didn't do this, because you didn't do that. He will use spiritual things. Satan can use simile spiritual things. He will use anything. Satan is a ruthless fighter. Anything around you to disqualify you. And the Bible says tell him, nothing can separate you from the love of God that is Christ Jesus. And that is why he says, the breastplate of righteousness must be that of faith and love.

And if you want to look at it. I think that is the life story of Job. He was doing all those things moved by fear not even moved by the love of God, to do all those things, sacrifice and everything. We can see even the condemnation the devil having in place and the angle to it. So in your carrying out of the supposedly good things, we are not saying people should just behave anyhow or misbehave. You know even in the prodigal father series, there are consequences to that. But the love of the Father remains the same. It doesn't matter. We cannot read anything to that. You cannot say because I have pray long enough today, God then loves me more. I think God is going to favour me today because I think I have prayed long enough.

The consequences are there, but the love of the Father remains the same. No matter how we want the Father to change, his love is the same. Even if you choose not to be prayerful, if you choose to walk anyhow and everything, there are consequences to that, not that the Father is the one supervising that. But what we are telling is to guide yourself against the condemnation that comes with it. Some people will suffer twice, you know double suffering, double tragedy, they will get the consequence from what they are not doing, and they will get the condemnation again about it from the devil. He is so smart because he knows how to get anyone.

Some will actually suffer for the two and some will suffer for one and some will suffer not at all. So it depends on how you can come to this survival scale and equipped yourself and understand how this armory works and know that if he is going to come like this, the consequences am going to get this, I don't fall into the consequence of not doing or doing something.

And again, he is coming about condemnation because no matter what you do, you know that ok, is not based on the works, is not going to drag me down, he said you are going to fall, that means the person is standing before, so he is going to bring the person down and fall into condemnation. Say devil you can't come here again, am already prepared for that. And that is why we are preparing you for this to understand how your survival depends on the knowledge of what we are sharing today.

Thank you for that.

It means we can go back to 1Timothy 3:6 and then it talks about

**Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.**

Now, if you have somebody looking for the devil in the coven, witchcraft coven, if that is where you think Satan is hiding, in some forest or you think is hiding in some kind of ...

Of course the bible talks about... in 1Corinthians he tells us wherever they sacrifice to idols, they sacrifice to demons. That is fine. We all understand that there are shrines. We understand that those shrine are infested by darkness and demon. That is true. But of course, what we have to know is, Satan has a far much more sophisticated arsenal beyond we limiting the devil to those things. The Bible says here, if we don't put on the breastplate of righteousness (Ephesian 6:14) which is interpreted as breastplate of righteousness which is interpreted as breastplate of faith and love in 1Thessalonians 5:8 what happened is we are right at the door step of the devil. He says falling into the condemnation of the devil. So Satan has moved arsenal, you have to understand that.

Now, before you go to verse 7, you see don't forget this same Satan like he works, this same person that lifted up with pride is susceptible to condemnation and the reason why he was proud in the first place, was because he thought it was all about him and his qualifications. And as long as we enter into that mode, it's easier for Satan to switch us to condemnation because the reason why you were in pride anyway was because you thought it was about you. And then it's easier for him for him to swing us into condemnation. We cannot afford to be in any of those two places.

There is something we want to look at quickly before we go to verse 7. Verse 7 is also deep and is quite meaty.

Now, I want you to look at this man Elijah. In our last transmission we made reference to Elijah who began to run because something was targeted at him. There were no horses or chariot chasing him, but he began to run because of the words, the weapon that was released from the mouth of Jezebel.

Let's see something that Holy Ghost want to show us about Elijah. Let's go to 1King before we come back into this. I began to investigate what was Elijah's problem, why he could actually be a warrior in the spirit, a man who called down fire and he actually slaughtered those enemies of God and yet a woman spoke and Bible says he saw what the woman said and he began to run.

1King 8:22 and 1King 19:4, let's read those two together.

## **1Kings 8:22**

**22. Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men**

Then said Elijah unto the people,

Now, watch what he said. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Watch what he said!

What did he say?

**I, even I only,**

Watch that!

**...remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men**

Now, he says to God, I and I only, am the only one remaining. He says am the only man standing. Then see what God told him. What does God says then?

Don't forget he told God, am the only one standing. If you read that place, God told him I have reserved for myself quite a number, it can't just be you. Can you see? It's not about you. I've got reserves. Can you see that?

See 1Kings 19:4 says,

## **1Kings 19:4**

**4. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, it is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.**

**But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness,**

This was after he ran from Jezebel.

**and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, it is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.**

How come Elijah is swinging? Elijah swung from the point of saying well, I think am the only one here, I think is about me, I think am the only one standing, am the only one doing the will of God in this generation and God said to him, No! Elijah you got it

wrong, I already qualified... in fact God said I reserved. I qualified some men for myself beyond you, it's not about you.

And the same Elijah that was actually operating in that spirit of thinking am the only person also swing from there and began to say well, I don't even qualify in Chapter 19 verse 4. He says, just kill me, am not even better than my fathers. Can you see the swing from pride to condemnation?

And the Bible says ... we can see Elijah living right in 1Timothy 3 verse 6. Swinging! Swinging from pride to condemnation. And unless we take on the breastplate of faith and of love, that is what we are susceptible to. So we can see why he was running there. And that is what we see in the scriptures.

Thank God for mention that because some people might say what you are talking in 1Timothy Chapter 3 is about Bishop and since they are not looking forward to be a Bishop and see this is about them.

We can see Elijah here is a perfect picture for what is happening because we saw pride and see that condemnation in the same person. Working perfectly well to know that just Elijah is like you, even James said Elijah is a man of like passions. So Some people are saying well, am not going to be a bishop, am looking forward to occupy the office of a Bishop so I don't need to take this serious. Then you should be a novice anyway. We can see that Elijah is a man of like passion. So that is what you need to take, and you see the thing working out in Elijah, we see him falling into both, the pride and condemnation. The pride of am the only one, and God said I qualify others as well not just you.

Because we see that some people are against some ministry because they feel like all those big ministries, they are the only one saying the truth, we are the one doing what is right. They use their smallness to justify that they are speaking the truth or whatsoever, and feel like am the only one, every other person is the same on the street. It's the same. It's working.

And we see Elijah too feeling like all the other people have gone off, nobody is doing this and that, like all this scandal and everything and feel like they are doing just because they are little. They are just one and because they are unknown, they are doing the right thing and they are the only one. Being unknown does not mean being the only one. It's God that justify, whether as much with persons...

Have you notice he told Elijah, I have reserved for myself. He didn't say...I reserved. I justified. Elijah is not about... He said I reserved unto myself. That is the word.

Thank you for saying that. He is the one that does the recruitment. He said Elijah what is your problem? For the person working hard, like ministering to the palace, and the one that is in the wilderness, I have reserve unto myself, he reserved everyone. So this office is by reservation. You can't boast about. That is why he say Abraham couldn't even boast. And Elijah cannot boast and the other one cannot boast too. Nobody can boast about it. He is the one that does the reservation. He is the one that does the recruitment.

He says breastplate of faith and love, that is our survival. The enemy is throwing something. You see, we've been talking about this breastplate and this bulletproof and what we've highlighted today is to tell you the seeming dangers if this bullet proof of righteousness is not in place. It's not going to be a joke. The enemy is throwing something. He is not throwing toys or he is not even throwing... he is not just throwing things that are not terrible. He is throwing terrible things, critical things and the Bible says there is pride and boasting being targeted unto our heart and there is also condemnation being fling or being thrown at the believer.

The case study of Elijah is really an eye opening for us because sometimes you feel like people fall into pride, when they have the numbers, you know when they resources, that have much to boast about, so easier for somebody who has a lot, who has so many numbers of men around that want to fall into the sin of that pride or be able to have something to boast. But we can see Elijah falling, just one man alone, he's still susceptible to pride.

So it's not about number of what you have or what you don't have. Some people might feel like because they don't have much, they feel like they cannot fall into pride. And some feel like because they have much. Having much or not, it does not actually immune you against the pride. What immunizes you is about the breastplate of righteousness which is faith and love.

So some people says they take confidences as long as I don't have much, I am not going to fall into this pride. So some people go and hide themselves in villages and say ok yes, am not going to be susceptible to this because am not going to be in the city anyway where I will be enamored and be driven and be tempted by all these things, by pride. So how will pride get to me with just the way am managing with this and everything? They try to immune themselves creating circumstances to help themselves against. The only defense you have for this pride, is not about what is with you or how many or where you are. It is about the breastplate of righteousness. It's received. That is why is of faith and love. Just know it is received. It is not achieved. Whatever position I am, whatever thing is happening in my life today, wherever God



places me is because I have received, never achieved and that is what he is saying there.

We will not be able to move further on this verse today because I want you to have a second look on that breastplate of righteousness (of faith and love) and if you've been ignoring it and you really don't understand it, because some people have find their way of going about it and not taken up. That is why we are being encouraged to take it up. Because they find a way of combating pride. Some people have the way they greet, the way they look at people, the way they dress, the way the bend their head, the way they talk even the language. They have some particular words and they feel like they are going to use that as substitute for taking up the breastplate of righteousness which is that faith and love against pride and condemnation.

So they have already design the ways. They work with some formula, maybe they work with some ministry that have some formula to help them and they feel they are doing well. But you just have to know that there is a proper defense for this and that is what we have shown you this morning for you to have a feel around this weapon because that is your proper defense for that high dry headed monster of pride and condemnation. It is that breastplate of righteousness. You have to take it up, you cannot afford to leave that alone and say you will have find your way around at it for you to be able to stand.

So if you have listened to us this morning, we want to say thank you for joining us in this fellowship of the unashamed. Because we have somebody that is stripe of humanity dignity so that you will not be in shame, and that is what Romans is telling us, he gave it all up for you. So who can dare lift a finger? So nobody can points to you and make you to be ashamed at all. That is what we are doing,

So if this speak truth to you, we want you to live the truth, live like somebody who is not ashamed, who has no condemnation, he has nothing on you, he can't point any finger on you because he has nothing on you. Because you have the breastplate of righteousness and you can't be proud as well because everything you have, you received. It doesn't matter whatever position you are, whatever you are a leader, you received. He says the justification is of the Lord. He is the one that justify. He is the one that reserves, everything is all about him. How can you boast? He is the one that gives the righteousness, you can't even work it. You can't work for it. It's too much. He gives the one, he gives it, he credited. He is the one that credited. He is the one that reserves. So nowhere to boast. He is the one that justify. He is the just judge, he is the one that mediate. He is the advocate. So he does all the job, you can be luckier than that. So you are immune against pride and condemnation.

And so we will like you to share this with all your contacts and then you join us as we continue in this.

I think this survival series is so long because we are still on the second armory, we are not done yet at all. And I am sure you want to listen to the other part of this series.

So 7pm UK time another weekend we are going to continue in this.

And so we want you to talk back to us. We want your comments, we want your suggestion and for people that are asking for the download, asking for the media link, for our MP3 links we are trusting the Lord, we are working on this, so that you can be blessed.

But keep sharing, let's make do with what we have now.

So till we see you next week Saturday 7pm UK. We say as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him. God bless you.

Bye!!