Ephesians 6:10-20 (NIV)

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

- We are to be strong in God's power The armor must be complete The enemy is real and scheming against you
- The battle is spiritual and requires a spiritual solution
- We are all in this fight
- The armor is offensive as well as defensive

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Character change is the outpouring of righteousness



Being right and doing right are not the same thing



Matthew 5:20 (NIV)

20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:48 (NIV)

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect

1 Samuel 26:23 (NIV)
The Lord rewards every one for their righteousness and faithfulness

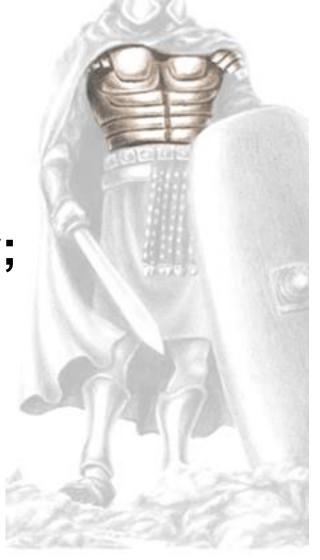
Romans 3:10 'There is no one righteous, not even one'



Righteousness is not something you earn



Romans 3:20-22 (NIV)
Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law;



rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.



Righteousness comes through faith



Righteousness is a gift



Romans 5:17 (NIV)

17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:17 (NIV)
For in the gospel a righteousness
from God is revealed-a
righteousness that is by faith from
first to last, just as it is written: "The
righteous will live by faith."

Matthew 21:31-31 (NIV)

Tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Righteousness is a right standing with the Lord



Psalm 119:32 (NIV) I run in the path of your commands, for You have set my heart free.'



Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us

1 John 1:8-10 (NIV) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9lf we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.

The motive for doing right must be driven by love



1John 4:18 (NIV) 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We are not made righteous because we live a good life and serve God

We live a good life and serve God because we have been made righteous