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THE SPEAKING LIFE

Monthly newsletter of Redeemed Life Church

FEATURED STORIES THIS MONTH:

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PUTTING ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Written by Frank Lutwama and Shiloh Ayesiga

Every believer has the desire to do what's right. But due to our rebellious human nature we often find ourselves doing the opposite. The devil therefore uses this as an opportunity to bring in thoughts of condemnation.

He comes in and whispers "See you have failed again, God can not accept you now, you might as well just give up"

The good news though is there is a powerful and unmatched tool we can use against these lies. It's called righteousness.

"Stand therefore,..... having put on the breastplate of righteousness," Ephesians 6:14.

During the apostle Paul's day, soldiers wore a breastplate to protect the heart and other vital organs. In the same way, spiritually speaking, the breastplate of righteousness protects the believer against attacks on his or her conscience and moral purity.

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HOW TO GET SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

Written by Nanyonga Tracy and Barnabas Byamukama

As followers of Christ, Christ desires us to be spiritually strong (Ephesians 6:10). Being strong in spirit helps us to build an effective relationship with our heavenly Father by being able to overcome hindrances to intimacy with Him.

In our bid to get and keep spiritual strength, we have to take on certain spiritual disciplines that will help us build the fortitude and confidence required to stand when the storms come. These disciplines include reading the bible, praying, fellowshiping and giving among others. However, we need one to have a mindset of determination and resilience if we are to see results. Here are three key attributes we need to embrace;

1. Commitment.

This is a dedication to follow the spiritual disciplines mentioned above and go from 'I will do it' to actually doing it. It requires surrendering yourself to God through submission. (James 4:7)

2. Consistency.

After you make the commitment to read your Bible and pray more, you need to be consistent in doing so. This will help keep your soul renewed and steadfast.

3. No Compromise.

Compromise breaks the back of spiritual strength. Once you have committed and are consistent with doing the spiritual disciplines, stick to them and don't push doing them to another time.

Spiritual strength is something we have to fight for. The enemy more than anything wants us spiritually weak because He knows that a spiritually strong person can not easily fall into his traps. We should therefore never let failure discourage us from pursuing this priceless treasure of spiritual strength.

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Putting on the breastplate of righteousness speaks of believing that Jesus' righteousness is imputed onto you by faith and you therefore have right standing with God not because of your deeds but because of your faith in Christ.

"Therefore, since we have been made righteous through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1

In addition, putting on the breastplate of righteousness also signifies living a life that is in accordance with God's will and commandments. It therefore requires one to align their life with God's character and will.

This is achieved through living a life that is intentional about reflecting God's way of being right no matter the status quo.

Living according to God's principles not only protects the individual believer but also contributes to the health and strength of broader community of faith. Righteous living fosters truth, unity, and spiritual growth among believers.

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