



Spiritual
GARMENTS

'Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.' Genesis 3:21

Put very simply, garments are items of clothing. We know clothing is important for our bodies and perform different functions in our lives. Some types of clothing are perfect for daily wear, some for evening and others for special occasions. Some help us identify who a person is and also signify authority and rank.

Similarly in the spiritual realm, there are also different types of clothing we wear which the Bible refers to as 'garments'. Each garment is unique in its representation and performs a specific function in a person's life. This series we are looking at 7 types of spiritual garments, how they impact our lives and how to use them.

Day 1

Salvation

“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation...” Isaiah 61:10

Isaiah describes salvation as a garment a believer is clothed with, meaning that in the realm of the spirit when we accept Jesus as our saviour, a demonstrable change occurs that distinguishes believers from non-believers. During our salvation experience we may or may not have a physical experience, but something definitely happens in the spirit to mark us as different.

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:” John 1:12

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:17

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2

Spiritually, this change of garments happens instantly as we are adopted into God’s family as His children, with access to all the rights and benefits that Jesus has. Let’s reflect on that for a minute. We now have the same Holy Spirit that brooded on the earth as described in Genesis and empowered Jesus during His earthly ministry resident in us. Amazing! The joy of this fills our hearts and should prompt us to share Jesus with others so they can experience the same.

It also signifies the beginning of the journey of transformation which enthrones Jesus as Lord over every aspect of our lives. This is why the book of Romans talks about the renewing of our minds: there are things we have to unlearn so we can learn God’s ways and walk in alignment with His path. Salvation therefore isn’t just an event where we accept Jesus as saviour and that’s it, but a journey where we are constantly being transformed to be like Jesus here on earth.

Prayer: Thank You Lord for clothing me with the garment of salvation and all that being your child means for my future.

Day 2

Righteousness

“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord... He has covered me with the robe of righteousness...”
Isaiah 61:10

Righteousness is right standing with God, speaking to where we are spiritually positioned. Therefore, anyone who is covered with the robe of righteousness is in right standing with God. However, this isn't because such people are good in and of themselves, but because the blood of Jesus.

“But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags..” Isaiah 64:6

“...“Take away the filthy garments from him.” And to him He said, “See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.”” Zechariah 3:4

The Bible tells us that our self-righteousness is like a filthy rag before God, which means that righteousness is more than just our good works. There is only one who can make us righteous and that one is Jesus as it's His blood alone that has the power to clean us up and make us like Him.

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.” Romans 3:23 NLT

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

When we accept Jesus as saviour, starting the journey of making Him Lord over our lives, one of the first things we must realise is that the only reason we can call ourselves righteous is because Jesus inputs His righteousness on us. As an illustration, picture Jesus wearing a robe of righteousness. When we accept Him as saviour, His blood washes us of our sins and He then puts His own robe of righteousness on us, we don't generate our own. This understanding should humble us because it's clearly by His grace so we shouldn't fall into the error of thinking that we are superior to others. It also means we should be encouraged to share the love of Jesus who paid such a heavy price for us and gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to as many as we can. What He did for us, He's more than willing to do for as many as come to Him with open hearts.

Prayer: Lord Jesus thank You for paying the price I could never pay and for covering me with Your righteousness.

Day 3

Power

“Listen carefully: I am sending the Promise of My Father [the Holy Spirit] upon you; but you are to remain in the city [of Jerusalem] until you are clothed (fully equipped) with power from on high.” Luke 24:49 AMP

When we accept Jesus as our saviour, the Holy Spirit who is the third person of the Godhead takes up residence in us and one of the assignments of the Holy Spirit is to clothe us with power. By virtue of being a human being there are already many things we are capable of achieving by ourselves, however when the Holy Spirit is resident in us, we receive a supernatural capacity to function beyond human limits.

The fact that we have the Holy Spirit doesn't automatically mean we are walking in power, even though that power is available to us. When we don't consciously let go of the old nature and submit to the promptings and nudging of the Holy Spirit, He'll be present in our lives, but won't be active. The Bible talks about grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit, which means we need to be sensitive to how we treat Him.

'But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:... the word of wisdom ... the word of knowledge ... faith ... gifts of healings ... working of miracles... prophecy ...discerning of spirits... different kinds of tongues... the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.' I Corinthians 12:7-11

'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...' Galatians 5:22-23

As believers we have access to many aspects of the Holy Spirit. His gifts which are available to all and His character (fruit) which we embody in varying degrees as we mature in our walk with Him.

The combination of the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit make us unstoppable as we will function as Jesus did and not as the “normal” individual. What does it take to be like this? When we constantly recognise His presence in our lives and nurture a healthy relationship with Him, we give Him room to move freely in us which will ultimately affect the things around us.

Prayer: Dear Holy Spirit, help me as I press in to be more conscious of Your presence in my life, so You can move freely in me and all that concerns me.



Day 4

Strength and Honour

“Strength and honor are her clothing...” Proverbs 31:25

Proverbs 31:10-31 talks about a certain person who is worthy of emulation. This individual is willing to endure the discomfort that comes with working hard, is generous to all and doesn't ignore the needy. This person possesses business and leadership acumen, understanding of sustainability and how to plow back into the business as well as invest profits in future earning opportunities. We see then that this clothing didn't come about automatically, rather it was the result of wisdom, diligence and hard work. It's therefore not surprising that such a person is clothed with the strength needed to achieve these things and the honour that comes with it.

“The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.” Psalms 32:8 NLT

Sometimes when we read of such people, we may think it's too good to be true, but this can actually be our reality. When the Holy Spirit is in operation in our lives, He gives us counsel not just in what to pray but what opportunities to engage in, or stay away from. He gives us wisdom and understanding about how to engage in our daily lives: how to excel at school, work, relationships, etc. He gives us insight into future trends so we can adequately prepare for them today by taking the right courses to study or developing the solutions/products that will give us a competitive advantage. He orders our steps so we fulfil God's assignment in every area of our lives.

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth ... and He will tell you things to come.” John 16:13

The Holy Spirit guides us and works through us, therefore we must be willing to be led by Him. He won't do the work for us, we have to be ready to put in the hard work and diligence required so that He can crown our efforts with good success. This is why we need to be clothed with strength and the result of our partnership with Him brings us honour.

Prayer: Holy Spirit I see now how vital You are to every area of my life. Teach me how to walk and work with You as You lead me along the best pathway for my life.

Day 5

Praise

'... The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...' Isaiah 61:3

Praise is integral to our relationship with the Lord, the Bible says clearly that everything that has breath should praise the Lord (Ps 150:6) not only because of what He has done or is going to do, but because of who He is. It's easy to praise when things are going well, but what about when things aren't going so well, or when we simply do not feel like it?

'Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.' Hebrews 13:15

Life happens to us all and in the midst of the challenges, trials and depression how are we expected to praise God? In His mercy God made provision for this through the Holy Spirit who provides us with a garment of praise – meaning it's something we can ask Him to clothe us with, so our praise isn't based on our situation (past or present) but by the power of the Holy Spirit. Heaviness is a spirit that can engulf us and lead to various types of malaise, but the Holy Spirit helps us exchange this heaviness for praise by giving us the inward ability to praise God regardless. We need the Holy Spirit's help because we can't praise if we don't see things from God's perspective. So praise calls us to focus on who God is and His unique ability to guide us through whatever situation we may be going through. It calls for us to constantly reflect on what God has done in the past either in our lives or that of others and to depend on His character of faithfulness and love.

'Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes... and they were defeated. ' 2 Chronicles 20:22

Praise is also a powerful weapon to counter the enemy as God inhabits the praises of His people (Ps 22:3), so as we praise Him, we draw His presence and all it encompasses into our lives and give Him the opportunity to fight our battles. And He never loses.

Prayer: Lord, clothe me with the garment of praise, so your praise will never be far from my heart or my lips.



Day 6

White Linen

“I counsel you to buy from Me... white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed...” Revelation 3:18

When Jesus spoke to the lukewarm Laodicean church, one of the things He noted about them was that they were naked, needing white garments to cover their nudity. Clearly the church members were not physically naked, however in the spirit they were nude. The material things they covered themselves with and activities they were involved in didn't translate to the spirit.

“She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear.” For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people.” Revelation 19:8 NLT

When the marriage feast of the Lamb was revealed to John, he observed that the bride was clothed in pure white linen, representing the good deeds of the believers making up the body of Christ. Jesus told us already that we will do greater works than Him (John 14:12) and these works will speak for us not just here but also in eternity (Rev 14:13). What the works will speak of though is matter of our heart disposition so not everything will be rewarded.

“for the kingdom of God is... righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.” Romans 14:17-18

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.” Revelation 3:19

We know that God's focus is always on the heart, so He's not interested in activity for its sake. Rather He's concerned about the heart behind the activity which must be acceptable to Him before the service can be accepted. This means if we are lackadaisical or there is bitterness, strife, murmuring etc. the service won't be acceptable to God even if people applaud us. When we have a real love for Jesus, a passion for what matters to Him and the understanding that it's only works that are acceptable to God that will be rewarded, it will greatly alter the way we serve Him.

Prayer: Lord Jesus restore my love for You and passion for the things that matter to You. Teach me how to offer service that is acceptable to You so I don't labour in vain.

Day 7

Authority

'Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.' Luke 10:19

True authority comes from God alone and when He appoints, He also equips the person with all the requirements and benefits of that office to enable the person function effectively. As believers in various spheres (church, government, media, finance, etc) we have been equipped to function as representatives of Christ because the Holy Spirit is resident in us.

'nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.' Luke 17:21

As carriers of the kingdom, wherever we show up, we are to bring the fulness of Christ in our character. We live and function in a world whose system is very different from that of God's, therefore the spiritual garments we wear are critical to ensure we aren't swallowed up by our environments. Even though the authority has been conferred upon us by Jesus and the Holy Spirit is resident in us, we still need to consciously activate our spiritual equipment because God doesn't force things upon us and the enemy will always push to see if we really know who we are and what we carry.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

As God's elect there are certain character traits we are to clothe ourselves with regularly. They may not be attractive to the world, but are are critical for our spiritual development and we are able to keep them on by the help of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit won't force Himself on us, which means there must also be an intentionality on our part to clothe ourselves with His character. Focusing on Him as we make choices daily that transcend our feelings and external circumstances, staying us conscious of our dependence on His help. As we do so, we grow not just in character but in levels of spiritual authority as God sees we can be trusted with greater levels of responsibility.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, I confess my dependence on You to mould my character to look like that of Jesus. Help me to choose Your way daily whenever I have to respond to a situation.

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