

LESSON SEVEN CLOTHED FROM THE HEAVENLY REALM

It was on my day off, I came to the Lord in prayer, when the Lord suddenly said “You will be writing on Heavenly clothing today.” “Clothing”? That was the last thing on my mind! “I will teach you” the Lord said.

The Lord spent the rest of the day opening the scriptures to me and I got more and more excited as I began to write them all down.

To be clothed from the heaven realm is experienced through prayer and by a revelation from the Lord of who you already are in Christ. This is the most beautiful and wonderful gift from heaven and can be experienced through prayer every day of our lives. This heavenly clothing though invisible to the eye, can still be seen in the spirit,

I then remembered when I visited a godly friend of mine a few months before she died. She had been bedridden for some months already, yet shined with such inner beauty, that her radiance in Christ far outshone her physical condition. She was clothed from on high from the heavenly realm and smiled with the love from Christ. As I looked at her, I could see that her heavenly clothing was far more beautiful than the very best of any earthly clothing.

I spent two glorious days with her speaking about Jesus and definitely wanted to be clothed from the heavenly realm like she was. I asked her questions on this subject to discover that she achieved this through spending quality time with Christ Jesus in prayer daily. I most definitely wanted to come to wear this beautiful clothing from heaven myself and wanted to also learn from scripture how I too could come into this level of being clothed from on high.

*Adorn yourself with majesty and dignity, clothe yourself with glory and splendour;
Job 40; 10*

These qualities are the true and beautiful garments that we should be wearing and these qualities will reflect if the qualities of heaven are living within us or not. There is a big difference. For instance lets see what scripture says on this.

For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to the poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags. Proverbs 23; 21

The above scripture speaks of a person who has clothed himself in the rags of despair from gratifying the desires of the flesh only. This person does not know how to clothe himself from the heavenly realm. One either clothes oneself from the Heavenly Kingdom or from the Kingdom of darkness. The Kingdom of darkness is the opposite from the Heavenly Kingdom. For instance instead of Love it's the rags of hate, instead of joy it's the rags of sadness, instead of peace, it's the rags of unrest, etc.

Now let us see what the scripture says about this.

Rather clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. Romans 13; 14

To clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus? Is this possible? Yes it is, it is getting to know Him in prayer that makes it possible. The more we know Him, the more He can live in us through His Holy Spirit. As Jesus had God the Father living in Him through His relationship with Him through prayer, so it is possible for us as well. In fact it is the only way we can ever achieve such a glorious way of living on this earth.

For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 1 Corinthians 15; 53

The next question is how do we do this?

Let us start from the beginning, with what scripture says to the priests first.

I will clothe her priests with salvation. Psalm 132; 16

Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let thy saints shout for joy. Psalm 132; 9

Be clothed with salvation and righteousness are the first two basic clothes which are the basics of our Christian Faith.

I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban. I was eyes to the blind, and I was feet to the lame. I was father to the poor, and I searched out the case that I did not know. Job 29; 14 - 16

These two basic pieces of clothing are already life changing. They speak of pure love for God and others, yet there is still more.

We need to clothe ourselves with the fruit of the Spirit. These are as inner clothing

Therefore as Gods chosen people holy and dearly beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3; 12

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

Love, the glorious garment from Kingdom of Heaven, not the rags of hate from Kingdom of darkness, Joy from Heaven, not unhappiness from hell. Peace from Heaven, not unrest from hell. Patience from Heaven, not impatience from hell. Kindness from Heaven, not unkindness from hell. Goodness from Heaven, not wickedness from hell. Faithfulness from Heaven, not unfaithfulness from hell. Gentleness from Heaven, not roughness from hell. Self control from Heaven, not out of control from hell.

You will see clearly that the clothing from Heaven shines beautifully through our characters in the fruits of the Spirit, but if we are wearing the rags of the opposite, the negative fruits from the kingdom of darkness, these negative character traits will also be seen by others

in our lives and will not be appreciated, as these rags lead onto many many sins as described In Galatians 5;19, The fruits of the Spirit are the true riches of life, not money or possessions. True riches of the fruits of the Spirit shine from within us and make us beautiful and do not depend on any outward clothing or possessions whatsoever.

The positive fruits of the Holy Spirit should therefore always shine through all our lives. We then read

For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, So that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the spirit as a guarantee. 2 Corinthians 5; 1-5

Verse 4-5 in the original Aramaic Bible translates this passage.

For while we are here in this house, we groan under its burden; yet you desire not to throw it off; but to be clothed over it, so that its mortality may be absorbed in life and He that prepares us for this thing is Elohim: who has given us the earnestness of His Spirit.

This shows us how important it is to clearly understand and to put this valuable advice into practise in our lives through building our relationship with the Lord who is the only one who can prepare us in this life for eternal life.

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Revelation 3; 18

These passages are speaking of eternal life. We do not want to enter heaven one day naked, but clothed with the fruits of knowing Him, and the fruits of the Spirit. It's a life we can be clothed with now, while we are still alive on this earth. We need to live with eternity in our hearts and lives. We need to be clothed from on high. The Kingdom of Heaven can live within us now and people all around us will see it.

We also have to live this life daily and not backslide back into the earthly realm which is so easy to do. The more time we spend with the Lord, the more brightly these qualities will shine through our lives.

A few years ago after breaking a four day prayer and fast, I had to go out to give a riding lesson.

The client suddenly asks me why my face was shining. I was not aware of it but told her about the four days I had had with the Lord. She immediately knelt down against the mounting block and asked me to pray for her as she wanted to receive Jesus as her Lord. I have no idea if or when my face may have shone with the Lord's presence since then, but earnestly desire that it should.

Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters of stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses's face because of its glory, which was being brought to an

end, will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory.
2 Corinthians 3; 7

These are the qualities that speak of true Christianity. We need to wake up and live it like the scriptures say, but are we doing so?

Awake, awake, put on strength! Isaiah 51; 9

We need to wake up now before its too late. The world is falling apart around us through sin and only Jesus is the answer, and if we have Jesus living within us, then we have the answer.

We need to put on our garments of strength now, and the above scripture speaks of strength. My understanding of this corresponds with loving the Lord with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength. This is the first commandment and I wrote a chapter on it in "Living From God's Love." Loving Him with all your heart in our daily lives. Loving Him by yielding our soul, mind and emotions to Him and loving Him with all our strength in the spiritual area of our lives. This is accomplished through serious, determined and regular prayer until we are truly dwelling in Him and living from His glorious presence and love. The results of doing this will definitely be glorious.

I believe that to put on your armour of strength also means strength against the enemy from the kingdom of darkness who will go to all lengths to try to stop you from prayer. This is because the devil knows that if you truly succeed in prayer his battle against you is lost. You will be so strong in the Lord that he will be unable to come against you, for you will have indeed put on your garments of strength.

We then also have to put on our protective clothing. The whole armour of God to fight against the rulers, authorities, cosmic powers over this present darkness and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*Ephesians 6; 10-18*

The belt of truth, in which we must walk in daily as walking in truth will always protect us.
The breastplate of righteousness, in freedom from sin and transparent righteousness in Christ.

And the shoes of the Gospel of peace, always being ready to share the Gospel with others.

The shield of faith, put on by prayer and gives us the faith to extinguish every dart from the enemy.

The helmet of Salvation, knowing who we In Christ and never entertaining any negative thought.

The Sword of the Spirit, knowing the word of God and how and when to use it when attacked.

All the above is put on in prayer and should never be taken off. It is also interesting that the first two pieces of armour, truth and righteousness, correspond with the two first fruits of the Spirit, Salvation and righteousness.

These protective garments along with our basic and inner garments is the clothing that Revelation 3; 18 is talking about making us rich in white raiment, the only clothing that can clothe our nakedness in the spiritual realm.

We all know the value of the armour of God, but we also have to put it into practice, for we battle against these rulers, authorities, cosmic powers, and against many spiritual powers. We don't seem to realise that these evil authorities are behind many mis-understandings, broken relationships, hurts and many other things that can come against us.

I myself suffered under such an attack for two whole years, until it all seemed to come to a head. It was then that I turned to some intense spiritual warfare and asked two friends to join me.

After the weekend of intense spiritual warfare, we had an amazing fellowship on Sunday afternoon at the ranch and two of the people who mis-understood me, to my surprise had also turned up. I was feeling so down I had not even changed out of work clothes. Mandy began playing some songs with prayer between and I was the only one who did not join in. Then she played "Dance how David Danced" and one of them said "we should be dancing to this" and stood up. One by one, us stiff British stood up and followed him in line round the hall at a walk. Mandy played it a second time and as we carried on walking, we all began to actually praise the Lord from our hearts more, and as we did this, a breakthrough happened, until everyone was actually dancing in the Spirit.

We returned to our seats and as we sat down the manifest Presence of God filled the room causing all of us pray out in tongues, with some of us kneeling. After about 15 minutes, this came to conclusion and we sat, and everyone looks towards me.

I was unprepared and very quietly said "The only thing really worthwhile in this life is our relationship with the Lord" I then went onto how to truly live in Christ and how to seek to be clothed from the Heavenly Kingdom spirituality. I then went through the spiritual clothing, comparing Heavenly clothing from the clothing from the kingdom of darkness. Then onto the full clothing to the white wedding garments. Then one of them exclaimed "Now I understand why Jesus spoke of the man not wearing the wedding garment at the wedding feast who was thrown out into darkness and gnashing of teeth! Boy do I want to get clothed from the Heavenly realm from now on" Everyone in the room agreed with him and we all responded to God to become clothed spiritually from the Heavenly Kingdom. We then concluded with a very serious and beautiful Holy Communion.

As everyone was leaving I approached these two people. They had totally turned round. My jaw fell open!! Then I simply rejoiced and reconciliation was immediate. It appeared that whatever was behind the problem had totally disappeared. I believe that it was definitely a result of the spiritual warfare, and the Lord brought it through a wonderful victory and reconciliation.

We also need to wear our wedding garment.

"But when the King came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.'" Matthew 22:11-14

This man was not prepared for the wedding feast. He was not wearing his wedding garment of righteousness. He had no Heavenly clothing covering him. He may have been

called, but he did not prepare himself for the King of kings and Lord of Lords. Therefore he was not chosen to enter into the wedding feast.

Let us examine ourselves and make sure we are preparing ourselves and putting on our heavenly garments daily.

TO BE CLOTHED IN WHITE RAIMENT which is our wedding garment, is to wear

1) Our basic garment of salvation, of who we are in Christ.

2) Our second basic garment of righteousness, through truly living out our Christian lives.

3) Our inner garments of which are the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Compassion, humility, and humbleness are also fruits of the Holy Spirit and they are all fruits of love.

4) Our outer garments of wisdom and strength, by wearing the armour of God, Now you don't just look beautiful in your garments of splendour, but are also clothed with the armour of God to protect you against every possible attack from the enemy. You will now be fully clothed with strength and splendour.

5) Our covering garments godliness, honour and majesty will then shine upon us. Clothing that is imperishable and **will clothe our mortal bodies with immortality** for eternal life with Christ, for now we would be at last fully clothed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

To summarise further,

- A) Our basic garments of Salvation and Righteousness,
- B) Our inner garments of love,
- C) Our outer garments of wisdom,
- D) Our covering garments of godliness.

Let us all walk in Salvation, righteousness, love, wisdom and godliness.

We will all have to stand before our Lord God, the King of the universe one day. Are we sufficiently prepared? Are we sufficiently clothed? It is through Jesus Christ our Lord and what He has done for us on the cross that will enable us to enter through the gates of heaven, into eternal life in heaven. We need to prepare ourselves now for this greatest event in our lives. This we do in Christ in prayer daily. Even as Esther spent much time over a year by rubbing oils into her skin before she stood before an earthly king with her request, how much more do we need to prepare ourselves now, to stand before the King of kings and Lord of Lords!

This is the only clothing that will go with us to heaven. Our earthly clothing will no longer be able to clothe our bodies. We need to prepare ourselves now with the positive clothing that will go with us and get rid of any negative rags from the kingdom of darkness. It's our characters that speak of whether we are wearing the positive beautiful clothing from Heaven or the rough rags of hate, sadness, unrest, impatience, unkindness, wickedness, unfaithfulness, cruelty and loss of control. All of this clothing speaks of dire poverty.

In heaven it's our spiritual clothing that speaks of how rich we are in Christ. If we are spending too much time gathering earthly riches at the cost of heavenly riches, we will become more and more poor spiritually.

Have we put enough thought into where we are going? Have we prayed about our future in Christ?

Are we making the necessary changes in our lives in order to be able to wear our heavenly garments here on earth? Will the Lord be able to crown us with these crowns, if we are not wearing the garments that warrant the crown to be placed on us?

How do we put these garments on? Through **loving God** Our Father through Jesus Christ His Son. Through yielding our lives to Him through the Holy Spirit. By our living relationship in prayer. Through putting Him first in our lives and through His grace alone. We will then walk more and more In Him, learning to wear each garment more easily in our lives, until these garments will not only shine in heaven, but also here on earth, which will be seen by all, that Christ has sent us. They will see them through our lives. These are the true riches, not money or possessions, not the most beautiful clothing of the world. This also means that the poorest of the poor can also attain them.

Let us pray. Let us put on these heavenly garments one by one. Let us learn to wear them continually and gracefully every day of our lives.

Lord I come to you now. Thank you for your Heavenly clothing. I put on your love now, I put on your Joy now. I put on your peace now. I put on your patience now. I put on kindness now. I put on goodness now. I put on faithfulness now. I put on gentleness now. I put on self control now. Help me to walk in these garments daily in the way I should. Thank you Lord. Amen.