



# I Have You Covered

Adapted from “Spiritual Warfare” series by Dennis Marquardt

We live in a time when we can feel helpless and vulnerable. So much has changed in the past 100 years. We have gone from horses to automobiles, walking to flying, a population of millions to billions, from the earth to the moon, harnessing the power of oxen to harnessing the atom, drawing pictures to broadcasting them in color, and candles to incandescent light bulbs. We have seen the civil rights revolution, the women’s revolution, political revolutions, the sexual revolution, the technical revolution, economic revolutions, the medical revolution, and the energy revolution.

However, what the world really needs is not a **revolution** but a **revelation**, one of righteousness. We still need our hearts to be protected from the onslaught of Satan’s influences and the power of evil. The human

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heart desires to be safe and at peace. But, in a world full of conflict—especially spiritual conflict—the only safe place is in Christ.

Here's a true story:

A retired couple was alarmed by the threat of nuclear war, so they undertook a serious study of all the inhabited places on the globe. Their goal was to determine where in the world would be the place to be least likely affected by a nuclear war, a place of ultimate security. They studied hard and traveled abroad.

Finally, they found the place. And on Christmas, they sent their pastor a card from their new home in the Falkland Islands. However, their "paradise" was soon turned into a war zone by Great Britain and Argentina.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> James S. Hewett, *Illustrations Unlimited*, (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988), 402.



Jesus said, "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*" The Bible teaches us that we are only safe when our hearts and lives are covered by Christ's righteousness. Nothing else is adequate to cover our hearts from damage.

# “COURAGE” Level Questions

**C1:** Have you ever compromised God’s view of life because of how the world will view you?

**Exercise 1:** On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being *not at all* and 4 being *very much*, rate your compromise quotient (how easily you compromise in order to avoid tension or conflict). Write out a plan to improve in this area.

**Exercise 2:** Read and answer the following.

Ephesians 6:14 (ESV) Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness.

**C2:** When you hear the words, “breastplate of righteousness,” what comes to your mind?

**C3:** The breastplate of righteousness brings protection from a rear attack. How has Satan used your past against you?

**C4:** The breastplate of righteousness also brings frontal protection. How does that relate to what you are currently going through and how does it relate to your future?

**Exercise 3:** Read and answer the following.

Isaiah 59:16–17 (ESV) He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.

Leviticus 10:10–11 (ESV) You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean, and you are to teach the people of Israel all the statutes that the LORD has spoken to them by Moses.

**C5:** One of the hardest things for a man to do is to admit he needs help. How does relying on the breastplate of righteousness bring help to your life?

**C6:** The world has a very different view of God and His statutes. How can you remain faithful to God's laws rather than the world's regarding the following: sex, money, marriage, work, value of life and death, and eternity?

**Exercise 4:** Read and answer the following.

2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1 (ESV) Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a

father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.” Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

**C7:** When you don’t wear the breastplate of Christ’s righteousness, you open your heart to compromise with the world. Why was it so important that Paul shares with the Corinthian church **not to compromise the things of God?** How does that relate to you now?

**C8:** How much courage does it take for you to stand firm wearing the breastplate of righteousness in today’s day and age when the world is turning further and further away from the Word of God? What is your plan to always make sure you are wearing the breastplate of righteousness?

## “STRENGTH” Level Questions

**S1:** Describe how you have tried to be strong in keeping God’s Word only to fail. How did you feel?

**S2:** How important is the breastplate of righteousness in your standing firm for Christ?

**Exercise 1:** Read and answer the following.

Ephesians 6:14 (ESV)

**S3:** A soldier without a breastplate is usually a dead soldier. How can you apply the breastplate of Christ’s righteousness to your life, so you are not a dead witness of Jesus Christ?



**S4:** How does the breastplate of righteousness protect you from attacks? Describe such an attack which you've suffered in the past or are currently experiencing. How has/is wearing the breastplate helped you?

**S5:** One of the areas the breastplate protects is the heart. How does the breastplate of righteousness protect your heart?

**Exercise 2:** Read and answer the following.

Isaiah 59:16–17 (ESV)

Leviticus 10:10–11 (ESV)

**S6:** These scriptures admonish us to teach the people all the statutes of the Lord. How can you as a man teach the next generation about the importance of the breastplate of righteousness and wearing the full armor of God?

**Exercise 3:** Read and answer the following.

2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1 (ESV)

**S8:** How do you remain faithful to God regarding: sex, money, marriage, work, value of life and death, and eternity?

**Exercise 4:** In the next sixty days, find three men with which to discuss the breastplate of righteousness. Make sure you discuss scriptures and life examples. Develop a strategy to keep your breastplate of righteousness securely in place. What did you learn from these men?

## “ENDURANCE” Level Questions

**E1:** In spiritual warfare, Satan uses counterfeits to keep you distanced from God’s truths and laws. How do you, as a man of God, remain faithful to the things of God rather than the things of the world?

**Exercise 1:** Read and answer the following.

Ephesians 6:14 (ESV)

**E2:** Satan will use your past to keep you from maturing in Christ. How can the breastplate of righteousness protect you from this kind of an assault?



**E3:** What is your strategic plan to put on the breastplate of Christ's righteousness for the endurance of the race of life?

**Exercise 2:** In the next 60 days, share the importance of the breastplate of righteousness in our spiritual warfare with three men? What did you learn from those discussions?

**Exercise 3:** Read and answer the following.

2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1 (ESV)

**E4:** How do you uphold God's standards in a world which is crumbling around you? Do you find it easier to give into the world's view rather than God's? Why or why not?

**E5:** In the next sixty days, sit down with three men and discuss the difference between God's view and the world's view in a man's life regarding: sex, money, marriage, work, value of life and death, and eternity. What did you learn from these discussions?