

From the HEY! Series because God would like to get our attention!

Any theme God repeats in the Bible is worthy of study, reflection, and application. He renounces rituals for our prayers, instead recommending patterns like the Lord's Prayer, a way to pray. For our application in this study, we'll consider His frequent use of clothing terms which is strikingly evident with numerous references to "put on this" and "be clothed in that." God has a great personality! Although this is a serious subject, He's shown me how to enjoy learning about it.

He promises that He has us covered if we comply with His Word, so:

HEY! Why Are You Running Around Naked When God Has a Closet Full of Clothes for You to Wear??

A Study by Marylynn G. Stults, Abraham Publishing, Spring 2014

Prayerfully you, the reader of this study, will examine the Scriptures referenced here in context in your Bible. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart and teach you how to increase your faith and empower your life. Amen in Jesus' name.

(Please note: Scriptures printed below are from the Amplified Bible unless otherwise noted.)

PREFACE

God has us covered when we comply with His Word. His garments are light as a feather yet tougher than a tank! They're one-size-fits-all, they go with every skin tone and type and, while the LORD encourages us to look good, His primary concern is for our internal health and mental well-being.

In various versions of the Bible:

- 48 times God speaks of our "putting on"
- 15 times of our "taking off"
- 170 times, He uses the word "garment"
- 87 times, He speaks of us as naked
- 185 times, He uses the word "cover"

Underneath it all, God's calling attention to our personal hygiene:

- 158 times He speaks of people or things "unclean"
- 16 times of their being "filthy" and
- 11 times of their "stink"!
- 133 times He speaks of our "washing" and
- 194 times He uses variations of the word "clean"

Did you ever send your kids to school and have them come home *cleaner*? Ever let your house go without cleaning for a month only to find out it was cleaner than before? No, not hardly!

DIRT HAPPENS! No matter what you know (or *think* you know), as long as you're in your Earthsuit you need to clean the dirt off of you daily.

LET'S GET IN THE WORD AND SEE HOW MUCH WE CAN ACCOMPLISH BY CLEANING UP OUR ACTS!

We've Had a Wardrobe Problem

Since Adam Bit the Big One

Let's start at The Beginning (*it's a very good place to start!*)(*Can you hear Julie Andrews yet?*) and identify pertinent Scriptures from our beginning (especially relevant parts are emboldened).

Genesis 2:15-17, 22, 25

15 And the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and guard and keep it.
16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;
17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and blessing and calamity you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

22 And the rib or part of his side which the Lord God had taken from the man He built up and made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

25 And the man and his wife **were both naked** and were **not embarrassed or ashamed** in each other's presence.

Genesis 3:1-11, and 21

1 Now the serpent was more subtle and crafty than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And he [Satan] said to the woman, Can it really be that God has said, You shall not eat from every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat the fruit from the trees of the garden,

3 Except the fruit from the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.

4 But the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die,

5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing the difference between good and evil and blessing and calamity.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good (suitable, pleasant) for food and that it was delightful to look at, and a tree to be desired in order to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she gave some also to her husband, and he ate.



7 Then the eyes of them both were opened, and **they knew that they were naked**; and **they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves apronlike girdles**.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

9 But the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, Where are you?

10 He said, I heard the sound of You [walking] in the garden, and **I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself**.

11 And He said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat? **(Whoops! Caught red-handed!)**

21 For Adam also and for his wife the Lord God made long coats (tunics) of skins and clothed them. (Painting by Masaccio, Brancacci Chapel, Adam & Eve detail 1426; public domain)

In our beginning when we were found out-of-compliance (and sin had now introduced itself into the world), we realized we were naked – exposed, vulnerable – to each other and the enemy, God Himself provided the material coverings for the first couple. Subsequently, His coverings are now SUPERNatural for our PROTECTION, CORRECTION, AND DIRECTION.

A Little More (interesting) History

1 Samuel 19:24

24 And he (King Saul) stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, Is Saul also among the prophets? (Note: Now. Isn't that something? Read on and shortly you will see the explanation.)

Those who don't read the Bible don't know how interesting it is and that in it are many fascinating, sometimes mind-boggling scenarios. Those who *do* read the Bible sometimes do not know why it says what it says (including scholars who commonly disagree with one another) or else they gloss over passages that seem preposterous or puzzling and ignore them altogether. Still others take parts out of context and twist them around until they're unrecognizable, building man's doctrines and church denominations on them. Perhaps that is why there are about –

!!! 41,000 !!! AAGH!!!! Christian denominations!

(That was the count in 2011 according to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.)

These denominations by nature of their sheer volume conflict with one another and (must, as well, by nature of their sheer volume) conflict with the Bible itself, which helps to explain how false doctrines are introduced and advanced, and divisions in the body of Christ are created.

To be sure, there is another side to this: Understanding the Bible is clearly not a black-and-white matter. One Scripture may speak something to me and the same verse another, very different meaning, to you and yet we are both right (ha, or maybe we're both wrong!). (*But 41,000 interpretations?* That's a bit much...)

Yes, the Word of God *is* ALIVE –

Hebrews 4:12

12 For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart. (WOW!)

The keys to understanding the truth of the Bible are a willing heart and the baptism of the Holy Spirit Who will, firsthand, illuminate the Scriptures to you, for He inspired the writing of every one of them. That even includes 1 Samuel 19:24 (which we're about to explain). And, because we are human and yet in our flesh suit, mistakes will be made (that might even include our Samuel explanation) and misunderstandings will abound. **But He loves it that we try**; see here...

Matthew 7:7 (Amplified)

7 Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking [reverently] and [the door] will be opened to you.

As you are asking and seeking and knocking, keep on LISTENING to the Spirit *and* LISTENING to your heart. If you have a glitch, question Him and listen some more, and seek and read the Word further (even LISTENING to it on your Bible app!). Did you know how important it was to listen? In Romans 10:17, we learn that faith comes by hearing (listening) and hearing (listening) by the Word of God. Hearing happens automatically (unless there is impairment); listening is the conscientious action of paying attention and receiving what the sounds were that you heard.

In addition to a Bible app on your phone and the Bible sites on your computer, an excellent tool to help is a good study Bible like the Dake's Annotated Reference Bible (I have both the printed and app copies) which helps to clarify the Samuel 19:24 Scripture: **“This means that Saul stripped off his armor and kingly robes, and was under the influence of the Spirit for a whole day and night. A person was considered naked when he laid aside his outer garments, leaving nothing on but his tunic and girdle. David was thus naked (2 Samuel 6:14, 20). Isaiah walked naked by simply removing his mantle (Isaiah 20:2), and in the same sense others were naked (the young man of Mark 14:51-52, and Peter as in John 21:7).”** Dake confirmed his understanding with other Scripture to validate it, but even then, you should question, study, pray, ask, and listen to God for greater understanding.

We were created naked and we first walked naked. (Haha, in fact we still are!) As we learned, in the Garden, Adam and Eve were naked and not ashamed...until they sinned and felt it necessary to cover themselves. Martha Stewart might have been proud of the first couple's ingenuity in fashioning clothes out of the materials on hand; to God, though, they were laid bare in their sin and their makeshift coverings didn't cut the mustard. Immediately after He covered their nakedness, He booted them out of Eden and put them to work (apparently for the first time).

In Exodus 32, following the Exodus, the Israelites were “naked” from shame for sinning while Moses was with the Lord God receiving the Ten Commandments. The Hebrew word used was “para” which means to loosen, expose, uncover, or bare. Many were also *literally* naked in their immoral activities. Is it any wonder Moses broke the tablets (Exodus 32:19)?

Because of their disobedience, they who had so recently been miraculously delivered from slavery in Egypt, were suddenly exposed to God's wrath, and 3,000 men which found themselves no longer under His divine protection, were slain.

Hebrews 4:13

13 And not a creature exists that is concealed from His sight, but all things are open and exposed, naked and defenseless to the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do.



(Moses Smashing the Tablets of the Law by artist Rembrandt; public domain)

The Primary Prerequisite to Preparation

(Preparation is the next section)

The fabric of your wardrobe is a richly woven tapestry of Christ's attributes founded upon the Word of God and actuated by your personal association with Jesus. Your relationship with Him begins when you die to self and are reborn of the Spirit of God; "Ye must be born again (anew)" as He said in John 3:7; this speaks of heavenly things. **This wardrobe of which we speak in this study is a heavenly thing. Jesus is your covering.**

(Whether you are just beginning your walk with Jesus or you have been walking with Him so long you knew Matthew, Mark, Luke (who never met Him; did you know that?), and John personally, reading Jesus' words in the following Amplified verses enlighten hearts!)

John 3:1-17

- 1 Now there was a certain man among the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler (a leader, an authority) among the Jews,
- 2 Who came to Jesus at night and said to Him, Rabbi, we know and are certain that You have come from God [as] a Teacher; for no one can do these signs (these wonder-works, these miracles — and produce the proofs) that You do unless God is with him.
- 3 Jesus answered him, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that unless a person is born again (anew, from above), he cannot ever see (know, be acquainted with, and experience) the kingdom of God.
- 4 Nicodemus said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter his mother's womb again and be born?
- 5 Jesus answered, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, unless a man is born of water and [even] the Spirit, he cannot [ever] enter the kingdom of God.
- 6 What is born of [from] the flesh is flesh [of the physical is physical]; and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- 7 Marvel not [do not be surprised, astonished] at My telling you, You must all be born anew (from above).
- 8 The wind blows (breathes) where it wills; and though you hear its sound, yet you neither know where it comes from nor where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.
- 9 Nicodemus answered by asking, How can all this be possible?
- 10 Jesus replied, Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet do not know nor understand these things? [Are they strange to you?]
- 11 I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, We speak only of what we know [we know absolutely what we are talking about]; we have actually seen what we are testifying to [we were eyewitnesses of it]. And still you do not receive our testimony [you reject and refuse our evidence—that of Myself and of all those who are born of the Spirit].
- 12 If I have told you of things that happen right here on the earth and yet none of you believes Me, how can you believe (trust Me, adhere to Me, rely on Me) if I tell you of heavenly things?
- 13 And yet no one has ever gone up to heaven, but there is One Who has come down from heaven—the Son of Man [Himself], Who is (dwells, has His home) in heaven.
- 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert [on a pole], so must [so it is necessary that] the Son of Man be lifted up [on the cross],
- 15 In order that everyone who believes in Him [who cleaves to Him, trusts Him, and relies on Him] may not perish, but have eternal life and [actually] live forever!

16 For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.

17 For God did not send the Son into the world in order to judge (to reject, to condemn, to pass sentence on) the world, but that the world might find salvation and be made safe and sound through Him.

Romans 6:6 (KJV)

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

*There is a wonderful study on this Romans' verse which explains how the original Greek describes the actual change that happens within our hearts from an **outside force (aka God)** the moment we are born again. This defines the actuality of the experience.*



If you have not known Jesus before or you do not now *know* that you have been born again, you can repent for your sins, ask Him to forgive you, begin to believe in your heart, and call upon His name. The only *prerequisite* is sincerity for the desire to change; *afterwards*, you'll want to fellowship with other believers and read the Bible, the true, inspired Word of God. This *Hey!* study is written only to accompany His Book. My purpose herein is to point out your heavenly wardrobe in the Bible so you can pray it on.

God greatly desires that we examine ourselves and begin to hate evil, repent for our sins as needed, and live our lives right here and now on Planet Earth as **NEW** creatures in Christ. That's why we are born "again" – born A-**NEW**. (Aren't words wonderful!)

Preparation

Preparation – a thorough **self examination** – is a good idea, even daily. “DAILY?” you squawk! Yup. Do you clean yourself up monthly? weekly? or daily? (Maybe I don’t want to know!)

Before you get going on a new day and before bed, dentists universally agree that you should brush your teeth. If they were just trying to drum up business, they wouldn’t give such sound advice because then you’d have to go more often. They have your well-being in mind because your teeth are constantly getting dirty. The rest of your body needs that daily once over, too, so how about your *innermost* being? Do you think your “heart” is unaffected by the world’s dirt? Do not take your new life in Christ lightly or for granted.

Matthew 15:19-20a

19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts (reasonings and disputings and designs) such as murder, adultery, sexual vice, theft, false witnessing, slander, and irreverent speech.

20 These are what make a man unclean and defile [him]; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him unclean or defile [him].

Romans 13:12

12 The night is far gone and the day is almost here. Let us then drop (fling away) the works and deeds of darkness and put on the [full] armor of light.

Colossians 3:8

8 But now put away and rid yourselves [completely] of all these things: anger, rage, bad feeling toward others, curses and slander, and foulmouthed abuse and shameful utterances from your lips!

Paul wrote that the flesh is intrinsically selfish.

Romans 7:18

18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot perform it. [I have the intention and urge to do what is right, but no power to carry it out.]

Huh? I just didn’t get it. *I* wanted to do good things *and I* – of all people! – did, at least, *some*; surely the great apostle Paul did, too. Over time, though, I began to realize what he meant. Our flesh is intrinsically selfish, self-motivated, and self-centered. For example, did you ever try to stifle an itch? a yawn? a sneeze? Just try to stop them! (Better yet, don’t! You might hurt yourself.) How about a headache? Can you just tell it to go away while you finish writing a report or cooking dinner? (Well, you can in the name of Jesus and it should go, but that’s another teaching.) Does the flesh cooperate with your other-than-fleshly-needs or your heart’s desires at all? No, the flesh doesn’t give a hoot about anything **but the flesh**. Its *own* needs supersede the needs of all others.

Now, that is the physical flesh – the body – but there is more to our bodies than flesh. Carnal desires and lusts of the flesh are all the time rearing their ugly heads and getting in the way of abundant life.

Repent and divest yourself *of* self...

Colossians 3:9

9 Do not lie to one another, for you have stripped off the old (unregenerate) self [*the KJV calls it “the old man”*] with its evil practices [*with his deeds*]

That “old man” is your flesh-driven self, the part of you that is, as yet, unregenerated and requires daily cleansing. A constant battle is underway. How can you get and *stay* spiritually clean? Well, you can’t, not with that flesh suit on. But as you work to keep those body parts that are never permanently clean, you can also put forth an effort to clean your *spiritual* parts as a conscious act of your will be taking spiritual showers!

A great place to start to get *spiritually* clean is to “wash daily” in the water of God’s Word (as the Lord has washed us) –

Ephesians 5:26

26 So that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word,

And the Word will scrub you clean.

John 15:3 (KJV)

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.



Isn’t that the coolest thing? We can relate to these Scriptures that –

- Give us our marching orders for each new day
- Feed us
- Counsel us
- Teach us
- Direct us
- Strengthen us
- Gladden our hearts
- And get us dressed... especially when accompanied by prayer

Here is how they do this: **Jesus IS the Word of God** (John 1:14). When we are dressed by God, we are, ultimately, dressed *in* God, covered in Him, covered *by* Him. But don’t get the big head!

1 Corinthians 10:12

12 Therefore let anyone who thinks he stands [who feels sure that he has a steadfast mind and is standing firm], take heed lest he fall [into sin].

Read Numbers 12:3 in the King James Version for an amazing Scripture about Moses. Just when you think you’ve arrived, you haven’t and just when you think that you’ve got it, you don’t because there is always something more, but you can make great headway by succumbing less to temptations and growing more in God. From the beginning in Eden, man was in the presence of God, but because of sin, the Lord “drove out the man” (Genesis 3:24) and man no longer walked with Him.

Now, because of Jesus, we can “therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16 KJV); furthermore, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16 KJV) for Jesus said, “If a man love Me, he will keep My words; and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him” (John 14:23 KJV). Here, indeed, is the preparation for salvation and beginning of abundant life which Jesus said He came to bring us (John 10:10).

Two Basic Types of Spiritual Apparel: Ineffective (Our Own Futile Attempts) and Effective (God's Perfect Wardrobe)

In the very beginning, we saw this happen:

Genesis 2:25

25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not embarrassed or ashamed in each other's presence.

After the fall, though,

Genesis 3:7

7 Then the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves apronlike girdles.

They were uncomfortable; they tried to cover up their nakedness, but they needed God to provide their covering.

Genesis 3:21

21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Hebrews 9:22

22 [In fact] under the Law almost everything is purified by means of blood, and without the shedding of blood there is neither release from sin and its guilt nor the remission of the due and merited punishment for sins.

Moses spoke that he saw that the people were naked from their sin while he was in the presence of God receiving commandments:

Exodus 32:25

25 And when Moses saw that the people were unruly and unrestrained (for Aaron had let them get out of control, so that they were a derision and object of shame among their enemies)

And God was Himself well aware.

Hebrews 4:13

13 And not a creature exists that is concealed from His sight, but all things are open and exposed, naked and defenseless to the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do.

The Good News is that Jesus came and fulfilled this need once and for all – the shedding of blood – so that *He* has become our perfect Covering!

Hebrews 10:10

10 And in accordance with this will [of God], we have been made holy (consecrated and sanctified) through the offering made once for all of the body of Jesus Christ (the Anointed One).

We shall speak more of the blood of Jesus Christ when we “put on the LORD Jesus Christ.”

God's clothes are one-size-fits-all all-weather outfits suitable for school, sports, work (whether at the stock *exchange* or stockyards) or whatever your activity (awake or asleep). They wear well for all cultures, from platinum producers in South Africa to Renault dealers in the South of France; from orange growers in Florida to corn eaters eating corn from Indiana. The more you put on God's clothes, the denser – and, thus, richer – your wardrobe! (Zechariah 3:4 in the Amplified Bible reads “I will clothe you with rich robes.”) And they're just hanging there in your (prayer) closet, brand new, bought and paid for by Jesus, *until you put them on!* AH! But how? Study to show yourself approved. Pray them on! Become the person God has called you to be.

I. God says, Above all, put on love, the Character of the New Man

Colossians 3:12-14 (NKJV)

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

These following verses explain even more:

Colossians 3:15-17 (NKJV)

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1 John 4:8 (NKJV)

8 He who does not love does not know God, **for God is love.**

Matthew 22:37-40

37 And He replied to him (a lawyer who'd asked what was the greatest commandment), You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (intellect).

38 This is the great (most important, principal) and first commandment.

39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself.

40 These two commandments sum up and upon them depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Love is so important, Jesus stated,

John 13:34

34 I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another.

Yes, we humans have love associations with our spouse, family, and dear friends for whom we have FEELINGS and from whom we receive FEELINGS that is sensual (NOTE: **sensual means one which gratifies our senses**). It is love that gives us personal gratification.

While our society calls that "love," what our Father and Jesus were talking about is also called "love" but the two have virtually nothing in common.

(NOTE: This is to distinguish between the types of love possible, not to criticize you or say in any way that you should *only* aspire to the higher. As a person, you will experience them all; as a child of God, prayerfully, you will experience the love of God, both as recipient and giver.)

HUMAN LOVE: While there is a fourth (which is described in Acts 26 as "mania" and, therefore, is not a true example of love), *human love is commonly of three types*: 1) Romans 12:10 speaks of Philos, brotherly affection. 2) Storgy love is exemplified in Exodus 20:12, love for a parent. 3) Eros — physical love — is seen throughout the Book of Solomon.

And that is where many people stop and it is, at least in part, what is wrong with some relationships today. Certain authors, sect leaders, and other people who apparently see only this sensual type of love do not recognize the HIGHER – indeed, holy – love that has, quite literally, nothing whatsoever to do with gratification, emotions, or feelings. I believe these are how it is justified and concocted that Jesus was the husband of Mary Magdalene or a homosexual. Agape love is not factored into these equations.

AGAPE LOVE: This divine love of God – agape love – is well-described in this verse:

John 3:16:

16 For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.

Can we love like this? God apparently thinks so are He wouldn't have asked us to.

The love of which our LORD is speaking in the Colossians, Matthew, John, and 1 John Scriptures, above transcends each of the four emotions of human love. His love – and the love to which He has called us to love – is a higher, *selfless* love; it is *not* sexual or whatcanigetoutofit love. The love of God is action-based **to benefit others**. In 1 John 3:18, John recorded, "...let us not love in word, neither in tongue: but in deed and in truth." That is how our Daddy loves us. That is how He wants us to love. And, thank God (and none other!), He has told us what to do to love this way:

Keep His commandments.

1 John 5:3a KJV

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.

1 John 5:3a Amplified

3 For the [true] love of God is this: that we do His commands [keep His ordinances and are mindful of His precepts and teaching].

And He has already told us **how** to keep them:

Galatians 5:14 KJV

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Galatians 5:14 Amplified

14 For the whole Law [concerning human relationships] is complied with in the one precept, You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself.

Hmmm. So love is like a circle: Love by keeping His commandments; His commandments are to love. That is thought-provoking! Here's one idea: We don't have to say to ourselves, "Self, do not take that candy from that baby" for if we are walking in His commandment of love, we could *not* take from the baby! We would not take the life of another, desire our neighbor's spouse or house, or speak ill against our parents **when** we love as Christ loves. Above all, we have put on love, huh?? Well, that's the point anyway. That's the hope. That's the goal.

The Book of 1 John is a work *of* love *about* love – even Love *Himself!* It is short; read it often for a greater understanding of our Lord; like this, from Chapter 2:

1 John 2:5-6 KJV

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him.

6 He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.



(Love at work: Christian Disaster Relief helping FEMA; from the Public Domain)

The only way we can love as He loved and walk as He walked is to aspire to be like Him and come to know Him through prayer, devouring His word, putting it on, and living it as directed by the Holy Spirit. We need to begin to see other as *He* sees them to love as He does. I can tell you firsthand that, as you read and read and read the Bible – the only book that is alive! – this Word will get into the very fabric of your being and, with every passing day (providing you stay the course) you will come to walk as He walked. I may be 387 years old before I finally get it, but I get closer and closer to getting a hold of the truth of the Word of God with every tick of the clock. You will, too. The benefits, which are beyond measure, include (ah! 1 John *again*):

1 John 4:18

18 There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love's complete perfection].

And:

Proverbs 10:12 KJV

12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

Proverbs 10:12

12 Hatred stirs up contentions, but **love covers all transgressions**.

Here's the icing on the cake:

Luke 10:25-28 (1599 Geneva Bible)

25 Then behold, a certain Lawyer stood up, and tempted Him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 And He said unto him, What is written in the Law? how readest thou?

27 And he answered and said, Thou shalt love thy Lord God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy thought, and thy neighbor as thyself.

28 Then He said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

Is being born again simpler than we have been led to believe? And yet, so profound....

II. Put on the Whole Armor of God

No human is our enemy. Well, okay, one. The one closest to us: Us. THE enemy is a lying devil with a horde of demons we cannot see with our natural eyes working overtime for him because he knows their time's almost over, but they're there and so are great coverings to protect us against them.

"...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8 KJV). Well, He did. Done deal. Now, He provides us with this wonderful wardrobe full of powerful clothes, including a full set of armor.

Ephesians 6:10-18

10 In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides].

11 Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to **STAND** up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.

12 For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.

13 Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and **STAND** your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to **STAND** [firmly in your place].

Think we should keep standing? Keep on keeping on? Absolutely, but *leaning* on God, all the while, not on our own works.

14 **STAND** therefore [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God,

15 And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the [a]firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace.

16 Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one].

17 And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God.

HOW?

18 **PRAY** at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).

We don't play we're knights in shining armor; we pray the attributes of God become one with us that we are able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For, as it states, we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

III. Put on the LORD Jesus Christ!

Romans 13:14

14 But clothe yourself with the **Lord Jesus Christ** (the Messiah), and make no provision for [indulging] the flesh [put a stop to thinking about the evil cravings of your physical nature] to [gratify its] desires (lusts).

Exposition of the Bible (John Gill; 18th century) says, “As a man puts on his clothes when he rises in the morning: the righteousness of Christ is compared to a garment, it is the best robe, it is fine linen, clean and white, and change of raiment; which being put on by the Father’s gracious act of imputation, covers the sins and deformities of His people, defends them from divine justice, secures them from wrath to come, and renders them beautiful and acceptable in his sight: which righteousness being revealed from faith to faith, is received by faith, and made use of as a proper dress to appear in before God; and may be daily said to be put on by the believer, as often as he makes use of it...”

Of this same Scripture, *The 1599 Geneva Study Bible* says, “To put on Christ is to possess Christ, to have Him in us, and us in Him.”

God showed me to break this Scripture – Put on the Lord Jesus Christ – into the three segments referenced, A. Lord, B. Jesus, C. Christ, for here the entire phrase is meaningful!

A. The Greek word for Lord, kurios, means “owner, master, controller; he to whom a person or thing belongs.” When we came to the knowledge of the Lord as *our* Lord, unlike human masters, we did not become slaves.

B. Jesus, our Lord’s name, means salvation which, in turn, means help, victory, prosperity, health, and welfare.

C. Christ means the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Son of God.

What does this mean to us?

A. LORD

John 1:12

12 But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name—

A human slave-master *demands* lordship over man, while the Lord Jesus Christ *desires* that we desire – and actively seek – His lordship.

We praise, thank, worship, and love Him as the Owner, Master, and Controller of our lives, for He has purchased – and, thereby, saved – us with His blood. I pray daily that He reign in the lives of those for whom I pray, have the reins of our lives, and rain upon our lives His blessings.

B. JESUS (Painting, Christ in Gethsemane, is by Hofmann, 1890, from Public Domain)

1. Word

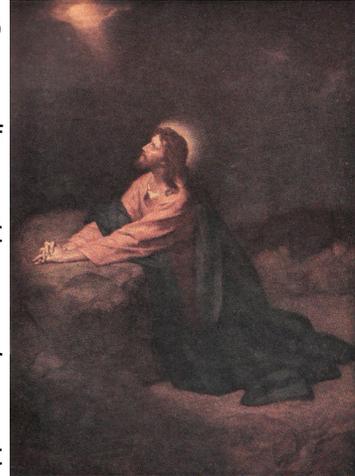
Just before He went to the Cross for us, Jesus, Who *is* the Word of God (John 1), prayed to the Father,

John 17:8a KJV

For I have given unto them (us!) the words which Thou gavest Me; and they have received them...

Some of the Words He gave us include:

- No evil shall befall you, no plague or calamity come near your tent (Psalm 91:10 KJV)
- No weapon formed against you shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17 KJV)
- You can consume anything even deadly and it shall not hurt you (Mark 16:18 KJV)
- Nothing shall by any means hurt you for I have given you power and authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and **NOTHING SHALL BY ANY MEANS HURT YOU!** (Luke 10:19, 9:1; Matthew 10:1 KJV)



Furthermore, some of the Words He gave to us have seeming mysteries, secrets, and tidbits that can be easily glossed over and missed altogether; ah, but when you suddenly see them, and study them, and discover the power or authority hidden within them, you find you heart thrills and your mind is bogged!

Like this:

Ephesians 5:30 KJV

30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.

Jesus was a Man like us, one of flesh and bones. We continue His work here as His body, on His behalf. “Body” is just a common phrase used: Christians are the *body* of Christ. Ho hum. We perceive that as merely a group – body – of people collectively joined by a common belief in Jesus Christ. This Scripture, though, does not lend itself to the usual inference. Why the flesh? Why the bones? Looking at the original Greek, the words mean... hmmm... “flesh” and “bones.” Seems to me, He is telling us something. Perhaps that we should take, more literally, being a part of His body here on earth. Might it be that the same Holy Spirit Who raised Jesus from the dead to be the Christ (Romans 8:11 – we’ll see more on page 17) is as fully willing and capable in us to make alive and well our mortal – flesh and bone – bodies?

B. JESUS

2. Name

The Word says to do everything in the name of Jesus (Colossians 3:17). Who among us would give carte blanche authority – even to our best friend – to use his name? And, yet, Jesus! – wow! Whatever we do we are to do in His name.

Like family – sons – we share in Jesus’ name. Share in Sonship. We are sibling children of the King!

Galatians 4:4-6

But when the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born subject to [the regulations of] the Law, To purchase the freedom of (to ransom, to redeem, to atone for) those who were subject to the Law, that we might be adopted and have sonship conferred upon us [and be recognized as God's sons]. And because you [really] are [His] sons, God has sent the Holy Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba Father!

God reinforces this by saying He's not ashamed to call us brethren in Hebrews 2:11, sons of God in Romans 8:14, and joint-heirs with Christ in Romans 8:17. It doesn't get any closer than that even in the natural for the closest person on earth to us is our brother. These are powerful, wonderful Scriptures.

Jesus: He is our very big Brother!

B. JESUS

3. Blood



God's edict concerning blood sacrifice is recorded in Genesis 3:21 (though without direct mention of blood); here it is recorded that He covered Adam and Eve's naked bodies with clothing He made from animal skins since their own concoctions were deficient. Implicit is that an animal had to have been slain for the skins to cover the couple's sin. The animal's death served as the substitution for the person's and enabled our forgiveness. Throughout the Word of God from there to Revelation, we see the significance of blood and Leviticus 17:11 tells why: **Our life is in the blood.**

Jesus became the final Sacrifice needed, fulfilling all Scripture for man to be redeemed. He went through hell in hell itself *and* on earth for us. The shedding of His innocent blood began during prayer, continued through the unmerciful beatings, and finished on the Cross until He gave up His Spirit and succumbed to death. Through His sinless life, death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus hence served as our proxy and made all future sacrifice obsolete.

Hebrews 10:5-8 (NKJV)

5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.

7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'"

8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law),

9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Jesus has given us all the benefits of His precious holy Blood and His body's sacrifice, providing us with New Life through a new birth with a new spirit and a new heart of flesh. Now precious – perfect, holy – blood without original sin can be flowing through our veins! (Scripture references include, but are not limited to, Leviticus 17:11; Ezekiel 16:6, 36:26; Matthew 9:17 by inference; Romans 6:4, 8:11; 2 Corinthians 5:16; Philippians 4:7; 1 John 1:7.)

I submit this question to you: Are you born *again* – *anew* – to be the same old person you were or a new creature in Christ Jesus? I urge you to study the Scriptures yourself and see how much you can learn about being a new creation! And, we receive all of this by FAITH.

Matthew 21:21-22

21 And Jesus answered them, Truly I say to you, if you have faith (a firm relying trust) and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, Be taken up and cast into the sea, it will be done.

22 And whatever you ask for in prayer, having faith and [really] believing, you will receive.

C. CHRIST

Christ means Messiah, anointed One...anointed with the Holy Ghost and with Power

- The anointing that's destroyed every yoke (Isaiah 10:27) and we are mighty men of God (Ezekiel 39:20)
- The anointing that establishes us in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:21) and teaches us all things (1 John 2:20, 27)

2 Kings 13:21 KJV

21 And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha (*a man who had been greatly anointed by God*), he revived, and stood up on his feet.

YES, THAT'S AN ANOINTING!

Again CHRIST means anointed One – anointed with the Holy Ghost and with Power.

Luke 4:1, 14a, 18a KJV

1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness

14a And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee

18a The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor...

Acts 10:38 KJV

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.

Now, I want to share this with you.

Romans 8:11 KJV

11 But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.

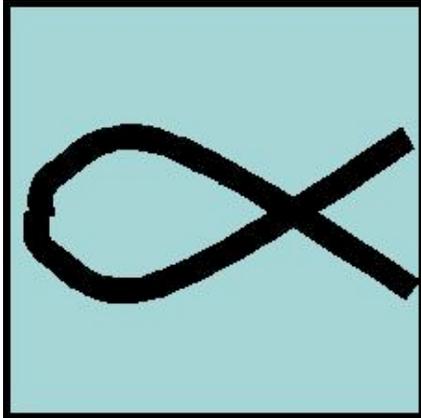
See how God uses the word "Jesus" first, and then "Christ"? That is purposeful.

- Jesus: Man. Man like us.
- Christ: Anointed King
- Jesus born once as the Son of Man,
- Raised up as the Son of God!

God has done this *for us!* First, we are born as a mortal man, a son of Adam; then, we are raised up – born again; born anew – as a son of God! And, we are ambassadors for Christ. Ambassadors enjoy immunity in a foreign land; how much more so we whose citizenship is heaven? And even more so, ours is SUPERNatural immunity – to every evil of the flesh, the world, and the devil – as we travel as His representatives on Planet Earth. (Scripture references include 2 Corinthians 5:20; Mark 6:7 Amplified; Philippians 3:20; Matthew 24:14.)

For we have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5). (I've tried mine. His is so much better!)

We are sons of God, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ, sharing in all He is, has, says, and does (Romans 8:17; Galatians 3:26; James 2:5). Sharing. Jointly. Not a piece of the pie. The whole pie.



[One of the early symbols used by Christians to identify one another because to be found to be a Christian could result in death. The "fish" – ΙΧΘΥΣ in Greek – was used because the letters are also the letters of a key Christian concept: Ι = Ιησους (Jesus), Χ = Χριστος (Christ, Messiah, or Anointed one), Θ (the Greek letter theta) = Θεος (God), Υ = Υιος (Son), Σ = Σωτηρ (Savior). Public Domain]

To further help understand the POWER of God and its relationship between the Triune God, the anointing, and us, let's look at these Scriptures:

Luke 5:17b (Jesus was teaching teachers of the law)... **and the power (dunamis) of the Lord was [present] with Him to heal them.**

Luke 6:19
19 And all the multitude were seeking to touch Him, for healing power (dunamis) was all the while going forth from Him and curing them all [saving them from severe illnesses or calamities].

Luke 8:46
46 But Jesus said, Someone did touch Me; for I perceived that [healing] power (dunamis) has gone forth from Me.

John 15:5 Jesus said:
5 I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing.

1 John 2:27
27 But as for you, the anointing (the sacred appointment, the unction) which you received from Him abides [permanently] in you; [so] then you have no need that anyone should instruct you. *(You don't need me at all!)* But just as His anointing teaches you concerning everything and is true and is no falsehood, so you must abide in (live in, never depart from) Him [being rooted in Him, knit to Him], just as [His anointing] has taught you [to do].

God in us, we in Him; a mystery, all right. Jesus is in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who is in us as the very air we breathe and from Whom we receive God's anointing.

IV. The Ultimate Clothes – IMMORTALITY

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 KJV

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Let's look at all of that in the New International Version.

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 (NIV)

50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—

52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

55 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

The most exciting news is this:

1 John 3:1-3

1 See what [an incredible] quality of love the Father has given (shown, bestowed on) us, that we should [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are! The reason that the world does not know (recognize, acknowledge) us is that it does not know (recognize, acknowledge) Him.

2 Beloved, we are [even here and] now God's children; it is not yet disclosed (made clear) what we shall be [hereafter], but we know that when He comes and is manifested, we shall [as God's children] resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He [really] is.

3 And everyone who has this hope [resting] on Him cleanses (purifies) himself just as He is pure (chaste, undefiled, guiltless).

Could anything be more exciting than knowing that, one day, you will be like Jesus?

May God bless you abundantly, His will being perfected in your life. Amen in Jesus' name.

Important Notes:

While we greatly use the King James Version of the Bible, for the purposes of this Study, Scripture references are from the Amplified Bible unless other noted. It often gives us a greater understanding of the words used; other versions, such as the NIV (New International Version), New King James Version (NKJV), and New Living Bible (NLB) can help us to have greater understanding by simplifying the English; and the Strong's Concordance has assigned a number that provides the definition of the original Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) words.

Receiving Christ as your Savior and becoming a Christian – one born of God – doesn't lessen life's trials; it opens your eyes to realize what Jesus has done to help you overcome them even while you are a mortal being, as your faith grows through prayer, reading the Bible, and fellowship. As you mature in Christ, you begin to love as He loves and to see beyond the material realm; you commune with the Holy Spirit, God present both in and with you, Who teaches you, and even empowers you, when you are willing and desirous; hungry for God and the Love only He represents.

There are allegedly as many as 41,000 Christian denominations – mind boggling, huh? – so there are at least that many ways man has found to present God's word. Many are, by their sheer volume, alone, in great conflict with others, yet each believes theirs is the correct interpretation. My point is that you may or may not agree with my studies which most certainly is your prerogative, but they are predicated entirely upon the Written Word of God and, prayerfully, without man's doctrines interjected. I offer these studies to you free, without obligation, and in love and prayerful hope that they are beneficial to you in your Salvation walk. Should you have any problem or disagreement with them, I am even further excited for you should take it to the throne of God and ask Him to clarify what He meant. Proverbs 25:2 says, "2 It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the glory of kings is to search out a thing." Be the king God has called you to be!

If, through this website, only one person comes to know Jesus as their LORD and Savior, my life and this effort will have been worthwhile.

I believe The Apostle's Creed which states: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord and only Savior, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy universal church that Jesus Christ established through the Apostles and Disciples; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Love in Christ and Amen in the name of Jesus,
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