



“WHAT HAT ARE YOU WEARING?”

By Mary Mayko

1 Thess.5:8 KJV But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.”

2 Tim. 1: 7 KJV “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound (clear thinking) mind”

Isa 26:3 KJV “Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed (kept) on Him.”

What have we got on our minds? This area is probably the most difficult to understand and use our helmet of Salvation properly, when it comes to defending ourselves when Satan comes to taunt us. Seems our minds are a target for his relentless attacks!

God’s peace in the midst of strife and battles will keep or guard our minds from being deceived by that liar! We need to take a sane, reasonable view of ourselves and what God has said about what and who we are! If we can stay sober, cool minded we will be well balanced, composed! When we have enough sense to seek the Lord first in times of troubles, He will pour His holy oil on our troubled waters! There is a healing balm that will flow over us with His peace! Eph 4:23-24 KJV “And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that when you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

AAH! When we “put on” the new man, renewed by the Holy Spirit and God’s Nature, our whole course of life now flows in a different direction! Now we can tear down those strongholds that Satan tries to erect in our minds! Praise the LORD! (2 Cor.10:3-6) When we operate with a sound mind and God’s Holy Spirit we accomplish several things!

1. We destroy the devil’s strongholds of false thoughts and distorted doctrines. Truth will destroy lies and God will lift up His Banner of victory over us!
2. We demolish the thoughts or doctrines that defy and deny the knowledge of God! False beliefs defile minds and bring bondage!
3. We must capture, or take control of vain, empty thoughts that persist like broken records in our minds. We must resist anything contrary to truth and righteousness. Our responsibility is to obey Christ in all things.
4. Be ready to take revenge on disobedience! Hold a “court martial” get the “firing squad out” and shoot down every enemy attack! The enemy takes a stand to destroy us! We must take a stand on God’s Word to have victory over him by obeying the Word!

To “take a stand” is a military term meaning having already conquered, stand ready to do battle again!

Excerpt from “The Overflowing Cup” by Mary Mayko Copyright 2007

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“PUT ON THE RIGHT CLOTHING!”

By Mary Mayko 2006



Col.3:10-17 KJV v.10 “And have *put on* the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him who created him.” v.12-14 “*Put on* therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things *put on* charity (love) which is the bond of perfectness.” (harmony)

As we read this passage and wear or *put on* the right garments, the results are mercy, kindness, humble spirit, meek, patient, forgiving, and love which together bring sweet harmony! I often hear those three verses quoted, claiming God’s blessings for their situations without considering the whole message! As *we put on* these characteristics of Christ, certainly the Lord will help us with what we do and say! How thankful others would be *if we only wore the right clothing!*

During the Spring Season, some people look for a beautiful new garment for Easter or some special occasion! We won’t settle for second best, it has to be something that will be just right! While it is important that we take care of our outer looks, it is more important that we are clothed with inner garments that will radiate forth the love of Christ and bless ourselves and others! Having a peaceful inner attitude will relieve us of much of the stress we all face and will even bring about a quicker physical healing when we are sick!

Normally, people will go through their closets from time to time, sorting out what they really like and want to keep. Even though some things are not worn out, sometimes they no longer fit us and should be passed on to others who can use them! We may have some favorites that we wore until they became rags! Time to toss them! If we don’t check out our closets once in a while, it gets overloaded and we can’t find what we want or

need easily! When things are in good order, it saves a lot of time and frustration!

What about our spiritual garments? As we grow in the knowledge of the LORD, we find we need to pass along some of the good things we have learned to others! Our growth can result in actually using many of the garments the LORD has provided for us in ways we had not realized before! If we get new clothes that just hang in our closet, they do not benefit us or anyone else! What are some of the clothing the Lord provides?

Isa.61:10 KJV “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.” Beautiful Garments!!!!

Eph.6:10-18 “PUT ON!” The whole armor of God! As God’s children, we certainly need His protection! When it is stormy outside, we reach for our raincoats, boots, umbrellas, etc! When we are in a spiritual storm, we reach for our spiritual armor! Each article serves a definite purpose! When we know we are dressed properly, it gives us an assurance as we go forth to meet a new day! Ever notice how many times the Bible tells us to “*put on*” something? Sounds like good advice to me! Let’s wear the garments the LORD has provided!

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RAIN! RAIN! RAIN!
IT'S RAINING!!!
By Rev. J. K. Golding

Isaiah 55:10-11 KJV “For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater. So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

“Rain, rain, go away,
Come again, another day.
I wanna go out and play!”

Remember standing forlornly at the window when you were a child, wanting only to go out and play with your friend?

Now, as an adult, when things aren't going your way, how many times have you said; “Who's raining on my parade?”

I remind you of another “rainy” fact, “April showers bring May flowers!”

Today, I am on the first day of a vacation, and I am looking out the window at pouring rain! It started yesterday afternoon, continued during the night, and is supposed to fall until tomorrow night! It is raining so hard, it's almost sideways!!

But I know when it clears it will be beautiful! I also know, high above those rain clouds, the sun is still shining. The rain clears the air of many pollutants, and waters dry ground. In the spring a great deal of rain is needed to bring plants back from their winter rest. We need lots of it to ready the earth for the hot dry summer months ahead. We need it for our wells and reservoirs. Water is the earth's most treasured possession! *BUT!* It all starts with dark, cloudy, dreary and rainy days!

Many times we see rain as an inconvenience, the spoiling of outdoor plans and a sloppy mess! But, God sees it as a great blessing, and likens it to blessings in the Word! Read what Ezekiel says in Ch. 34:26 “And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.”

But to appreciate the showers, we must have experienced the droughts. I am sure that is what the Psalmist had in mind when he wrote Psalm 63:1 “O God, thou art my God.

Early will I seek Thee: my soul thirsteth for Thee. My flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.”

This Spring season is also the season of Lent, a time for spiritual reflection, a time of “soul inventory”, a time to ask, “How close is my relationship with Jesus?” A time of being honest with oneself.

Let’s consider that final week of Christ’s life in A.D. 30, after the triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Such a variety of events for the disciples to experience! Remember they are only human, like you and I. The fig tree cursed and has withered, the temple cleansed again, open challenge by the Sanhedrin and the Pharisees, the untimely anointing by Mary, their co-worker unmasked and found to be a betrayer, and that intercessory prayer for them (and us), then the dark grief of Gethsemane!

But still, this dreadful week has not ended! No, these folks will see Him arrested, the trial by Caiaphas, the dreadful indignities He suffered, the mockery, and finally Golgotha. These folks also had deal with the suicide of Judas, and the triple denial of Christ by Peter. As they witnessed those six hours of His being on the cross, *how hard do you think it was “raining?” for them?* When that dead body was placed in the sepulcher, and it was sealed, how dark and dreary, do you think was that night? What sort of Passover do you think they experienced that year?

But it doesn’t end with a sealed sepulcher, or April showers. Just like we get May flowers, we have a glorious empty tomb on Easter morning!! Outside the town of Louisa, VA in a little spot called Bells Crossroads is the Macedonia United Methodist Church. On Easter morning bright and early, (the first one there) is a lady, Lucy who brings a large Tomb or Cross (they rotate them each year) into the church and places it to the right of the altar. It’s ugly, bare chicken wire fashioned to the desired shape. In the back of the church, a “Greeter” is at the door with a large display of fresh picked flowers from everyone’s garden. The Greeter hands each man, woman, and child a flower as they enter the church. Each individual then walks to the front of the church, and places it in the wire, where he or she wants to put it.

My favorite is the ugly cold tomb, because by the time church starts, it’s ablaze with brilliant spring flowers! Alive with life and simply beautiful!!

Whatever dry season or hard rainy days you are experiencing right now, know that as you trust Jesus Christ, He is alive and on His way to making, “May flowers in your life!”

“So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth. It shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” Isa.55:11

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