



The Garment of Praise



“ the Lord has anointed me to preach good things to the depressed, the afflicted, and the humble. To heal the broken hearted, set the captives free, and open prison doors for those who can't get out of bondage. To give to them who mourn, beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning and **the garment of praise** for the spirit of heaviness.” (Isaiah 61:1,3)



In this Scripture, God promises to give us beauty for the bitter ashes of regret for mistakes and wrong choices we have made that burned up our hopes and dreams leaving us only their ashes to remember them by. God will actually turn those ashes into something beautiful in your life if you will release them and let Him.

He also promised to give us the oil of joy when we are mourning and grieving over the loss of loved ones in our life, and the loss of things we wanted to hold on to. There does not have to be the death of a person for us to feel mourning and sorrow, it can also come from the mental anguish & suffering over the loss of something we hoped for all of our life, but it was taken from us, and would never belong to us again. God will dry your tears and replace your sorrow with joy --- He can do that because He knows your future, and the joy of the blessings He has planned for you will far outweigh any loss you have experienced.



The third precious promise we are given in this Scripture is the one we are going to talk about today. God promises to give us “**the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.**” By using the words, “**the** garment,” God is telling us it is not just a garment to cover up heaviness, but it is **the** garment -- meaning the only garment that will drive away a heavy spirit --- and that is the garment of praise.

A garment is a piece of clothing that you put on to cover yourself. So the garment of praise is a spiritual garment that you put on to cover your spirit. In other words, a garment of praise is a garment to put on the inside of you instead of the outside. And the spiritual garment of praise is the only one that is designed, by the designer (God) to be just the right size to cover and replace the spirit of heaviness.



We can all remember the days when we were in the mood to wear a certain dress. But after we put it on we didn't like the way it looked, so we took it off, laid it on the bed, and went and got a different dress – but after it was on, it just didn't look right --- so we just tossed the dress on the bed and go back to the closet. But this time we try something different. We take a skirt and blouse. The skirt looks O.K. but the blouse makes our neck look scrawny. Keep the skirt, toss the blouse. Get a different blouse --- makes the skirt look funny --- keep the blouse, toss the skirt --- grab different skirt, (by now we're late anyway) --- it looks too bulky around the hips with that blouse tucked in --- try blouse on outside with a belt --- it looks like a Russian ballet dancer --- throw blouse & belt on the bed --- give up on the skirt --- just leave it on the floor --- give it a kick for not looking right --- now we're really late --- have to choose --- either go back to original garment, or stay home & feel heavy and depressed all day.

(Cont'd)

We do the same thing with our spiritual garments – we start out taking God’s promise in His Word, then we allow doubt and unbelief to come in and we put that on for a while. That’s followed by a critical spirit about ourselves, and by the time we change that, a negative spirit has come, we use that one on our past, our present and our future, followed by depression and finally the spirit of heaviness that fastens itself on our spirit, soul and body. Now it’s really late! – have to choose – either go back to the original garment – the garment of praise – and begin to open our mouth and speak forth words of praise to God for His love and mercy, or allow the spirit of heaviness to keep us in spiritual bondage until it robs us of our joy, turns our dreams into ashes, and causes a mental break down. It’s a choice – our choice – we’re the only ones who can make it for ourselves.



We recognize that the garment of praise is a spiritual garment, but there are many similarities between a spiritual garment and one made from material. We want to find out why God didn’t just say He would give us a garment of praise for a spirit of heaviness. He had a specific reason for saying “the garment and the spirit.”

God was actually the one who made the very first garments ever made. He made them for the first man and the first woman Adam & Eve. “*For Adam and also for his wife the Lord God made long coats of skins and clothed them.*” Genesis 3:21. Since that time garments have been used for three different purposes: (1) to cover something (we don’t have to wonder what it was with Adam and Eve!). (2) to denote (show) a position or office that a person held. (3) to show some important event that was happening in their lives. Some preachers and judges wear long garments today to show what office they hold just as they did hundreds of years ago.



So a garment told much about a person:

- A garment of pure white linen showed all Egypt that Joseph was in command.
- A purple garment was only for a king.
- A black garment like ashes was for widows mourning for their husband.
- A garment of sackcloth (gunny sacks) was for those in grief & great loss.
- A colorful garment was provided for each wedding guest by wealthy hosts.
- A garment for shepherds was made of skins.
- A garment for soldiers was red.
- Angels garments were long, white, and shining.
- Garments for priests were of finest white linen. They had to wear these garments to come into God’s presence to praise Him. They were to enter His gates with thanksgiving in their hearts and praise on their lips.

In order to offer the sacrifice of praise (adoration and worship), we too have to put on the spiritual garment of praise as a priest unto God to come into His presence. “*You also, as a living stone are built into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices (of praise), acceptable unto God by Jesus Christ.*”

(1 Peter 2:5)

(Cont'd)

In the book of Revelation, the final book of the Bible, Jesus is receiving praise because He died (and rose from the dead), and has redeemed us (bought us), by His blood to present us to God. He has made us kings and priests unto God. We will rule and reign with Jesus when He comes back to earth!! And when we stand before God, He will clothe us in white robes – a garment without spot or blemish. He made the first garments, and He will make the last.



What a privilege we have been given! Yet most Christians don't have any idea of who they really are in Christ, and if they do have an idea, they don't believe it. You be different! Choose today to wear your garment of praise and walk in the holy office God has given you!



The Garment of Praise

1. What three promises does God make to you in Isaiah 61:3?

2. What are the ashes God will exchange for beauty? _____

3. When do I need the oil of joy? _____

4. Why did God call it **the** garment of praise? _____

5. Where do I wear the garment of praise? _____

6. Who made the first garments ever made? (Genesis 3:21) _____

7. What three things are garments used for?

8. Why did priests have to wear special garments? _____

9. As a priest unto God, why do I have to wear the garment of praise?

10. Who will make the last garment? _____

MEMORY VERSE (Isaiah 61:3) Write your memory verse here:

The Garment of Praise

1. What three promises does God make to you in Isaiah 61:3?

Beauty for ashes

The oil of joy for mourning

The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness

2. What are the ashes God will exchange for beauty? Burned up hopes and dreams from mistakes and wrong choices I made.

3. When do I need the oil of joy? Whenever I am mourning the loss of something or someone I wanted to keep in my life.

4. Why did God call it **the** garment of praise? Because it is the only one that will drive away a heavy spirit.

5. Where do I wear the garment of praise? Inside, not outside.

6. Who made the first garments ever made? (Genesis 3:21) God.

7. What three things are garments used for?

a. To cover something or someone

b. To show a position or office that a person holds

c. To show some important event that is happening

8. Why did priests have to wear special garments? In order to enter into the presence of God.

9. As a priest unto God, why do I have to wear the garment of praise?

In order to enter into the presence of God, because there is no heaviness in His presence.

10. Who will make the last garment? God.

MEMORY VERSE (Isaiah 61:3) *“To console those who mourn, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.”*