

CHERIE FRESONKE

*Clothed in  
Righteousness*

In-Depth Devotional Study Guide



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Clothed in Righteousness In-Depth Devotional Study Guide

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## *Dedication*

To my best friend and husband, Keith, who has allowed me to be all that God created me to be. I am yours always and forever.

To my daughters, Lindsey and Jessica, who supported me in everything God called me to do, including traveling to distant lands. I love you more than you know. God has great plans for both of you. My prayer is that you will discover all that He created you to be, and that your life will have true meaning and fulfillment. Enjoy the adventure and never give up. When life seems the most difficult, this is when true treasures are discovered.



# *Contents*

<i>Lesson One</i>	
CLOTHED IN LOVE	1
You are Loved	
<i>Lesson Two</i>	
WOVEN TOGETHER	9
You Are Not a Mistake	
<i>Lesson Three</i>	
WRAPPED IN THE CORD OF SIN	17
You Are Free to Choose	
<i>Lesson Four</i>	
CLOTHED IN GARMENTS OF SALVATION	27
You Are Saved	
<i>Lesson Five</i>	
CLOTHED IN FINE LINEN	39
You Are the Bride of Christ	
<i>Lesson Six</i>	
CLOTHED IN WISDOM	49
You Are Able to Walk in Wisdom	
<i>Lesson Seven</i>	
CLOTHED WITH POWER	63
You Are Empowered by the Holy Spirit	
<i>Lesson Eight</i>	
GIRDED WITH THE BELT OF TRUTH	75
You Are Able to Stand Firm	
<i>Lesson Nine</i>	
WEARING THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF JEWELS	85
You Are Forgiven	
<i>Lesson Ten</i>	
ADORNED IN THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS	95
You Are Free from Condemnation	
<i>Lesson Eleven</i>	
COVERED BY THE KING'S GARMENT	107
You Are Redeemed	

<i>Lesson Twelve</i>	
FREE FROM FILTHY RAGS	119
You Are Washed Clean	
<i>Lesson Thirteen</i>	
ADORNED IN THE LEATHER SANDALS OF PEACE	131
You Are at Peace with God	
<i>Lesson Fourteen</i>	
WEARING COSTLY GARMENTS	143
You Are Set Free	
<i>Lesson Fifteen</i>	
EQUIPPED WITH THE SHIELD OF FAITH	153
You Are Protected by the King	
<i>Lesson Sixteen</i>	
CROWNED WITH THE HELMET OF VICTORY	163
You Are Crowned in Victory	
<i>Lesson Seventeen</i>	
CROWNED IN HOLINESS	175
You Are Set Apart	
<i>Lesson Eighteen</i>	
ADORNED WITH GOLD AND SILVER	189
You Are Refined by the Fire	
<i>Lesson Nineteen</i>	
EQUIPPED WITH THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT	201
You Are Able to Fight the Good Fight	
<i>Lesson Twenty</i>	
CLOTHED IN UNFADING BEAUTY	211
You Are a Partaker of His Divine Nature	
<i>Lesson Twenty-One</i>	
CLOTHED IN PRAYER	221
You Are Able to Approach the King	
<i>Lesson Twenty-Two</i>	
PERFECT BEAUTY	233
You Are Chosen to Bear Fruit	
APPENDIX	242
ENDNOTES	243



## ***Clothed in Love***

You are Loved

### **Preparation**

Read the Introduction, “By Way of Invitation,” and chapter one, “Clothed in Love,” in the book *Clothed in Righteousness*. Then complete the Study Guide lesson.

If you are meeting weekly with a Bible study group and are limited on time, jump to the question in **bold** found in each section of the lesson.

If you would like to learn about the video lessons that go along with this study, see the appendix for more information.

### **Contemplation**

According to the *Collins English Dictionary*, the word *contemplate* means “to think about intently and at length, especially for spiritual reasons, and to consider calmly.”<sup>1</sup>

In view of this, find a quiet place and take some time to search out the following questions. Your answers will be foundational for the work that will take place deep within your heart as you complete each study. Understand that no answer is right or wrong. Simply be honest with yourself so that you can grow into the person you are meant to be.

1. Do you know why you were given life? If so, what do you believe your purpose in life is? If not, do you desire to know your purpose? Explain your response.
  
2. Do you know who you are? If so, how would you describe your identity? If not, what are you doing to try and figure it out?
  
3. Are you content with the person you are? Why or why not?

4. **By reading the book *Clothed in Righteousness* and completing each lesson of this study, you will come to know and understand who you are according to God's Word, the Bible. Do you desire to know this truth? Do you desire to discover the true meaning of your life? Why or why not?**
  
5. Here is one more deep heart question: Do you know that you are loved by God? I mean, really, really loved? If so, on what do you base this knowledge?

### **Exploration**

The Bible has been preserved throughout history. It has been handed down from generation to generation. In fact, it's still the number one bestseller. Why is that? You can discover the answer as you explore the depths of its riches.

Friends, family, and critics will all have opinions about your life—what you should be doing and how you should be living. But nothing has real value apart from the Word of God. The only message that can make a lasting change in your life (and teach you the truth of who you are) is found within the Bible. Therefore, as you start your treasure hunt, begin with prayer. Ask God to reveal Himself to you through His Word.

6. **Read Jeremiah 31:3. What did the Lord say? Write out the verse word for word.**
  
7. What does it mean that God has loved you with an “everlasting love”?
  
8. Read Psalm 63:1-3. How does David describe his “thirst” for God?

9. Read Psalm 103:1–4. With what are you crowned (surrounded)?



## Transformation

In Romans 12:2, Paul writes, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Transformation takes place deep within your heart and mind when you choose to believe the truth of God’s Word. However, the choice is yours—to be or not to be changed. Regardless of your choice, it’s still God’s desire for you to be transformed. With this in mind, let’s talk about the deep love He has for you.

10. According to the passages you read in the exploration section, are you loved by God? How do you know?
11. The fact is that you are loved deeply by God, whether you *feel* loved or not. Feelings are not reliable. What is important is the *fact* that you are loved by Him. Moreover, He loves you with an everlasting love—with an unfailing love. Write out this true statement below: “I am loved!”
12. **Will you accept the truth that you are loved by God and believe it in your heart? Consider wisely. What do you think would change about your life if you completely accepted God’s love for you as the truth?**

Each chapter in the book *Clothed in Righteousness* ends with who you are according to God’s Word. The following are the “I am” statements found in chapter one. These statements reflect your true identity. If you apply them to your life, you will become all that God created you to be. So, are you ready? Then let’s take a peek. And feel free to shout these statements out loud!

- I am loved: Jeremiah 31:3
- I am someone special: Psalm 139:13-16

13. After reading each verse associated with the above “I am” statements, which true statement *about you* spoke the deepest to your heart? Why?

## Application

*Application* means putting something to practical use. As you put God’s Word into practical use, you will be changed for the better. To help you effectively apply God’s Word, consider the following questions about what you have learned so far in this lesson. There is no need to answer yet—just consider them.

- Is there a promise to hold on to?
  - Is there a lie of Satan’s to let go of?
  - Is there a sin to confess?
  - Is there a command to obey?
  - Is there an attitude that needs to be changed?
  - Is there a truth to believe?
  - Is there an example to follow?
  - Is there something to thank God for?
14. Pick one or two of the above questions that you want to apply to your life this week. Write the question(s) here along with your answer(s) to the question(s).
15. **Now take the answer(s) that you just wrote down and combined it (or them) with your favorite “I am” statement from question 13. Form the two into a declaration. For example, “It’s time for me to let go of Satan’s lie that I am a mistake. I’m not a mistake; I am someone special who is loved by God.” Write out *your* declaration here.**

16. Now here's the big jump. Write down one or two practical ways that you will apply the above declaration to your life this week. Take some time to really consider this. Your answer, if applied, can be life changing.



### **Participation (Your Purpose, Your Calling)**

In addition to learning the truth of who you are according to God's Word and allowing that truth to transform your life, it's also important to discover your purpose (or calling) in life. Why are you here? Why were you given life? Is there a reason for you to keep on living in this crazy world?

You bet there is. As you learned in this lesson, you're loved by God and are someone special. Just these two reasons alone provide an explanation for your life. It is my hope and goal that as you complete each lesson, you will come to discover (if you don't already know it) the reason you were given life and, better yet, discover and live out your true calling.

17. **Read Jeremiah 29:11. What does God know about you?**

18. How do you respond to the truth that God only has good plans for you?

God knows the plans He has for you, which means He knows the purpose of your life. Isn't that wonderful! So, you will be on a treasure hunt as you dig through this study to discover your true calling.

### **Foundation (The Best, Best, Best Part)**

Each chapter in the book *Clothed in Righteousness* is based on the truth of God's Word. It's God's Word that has the power to change your life. Since it's important to see truth with your own eyes, each lesson in this study includes a "Foundation" section that lists the foundational truths contained within the corresponding chapter in the book *Clothed in Righteousness*, along with the Scripture reference.

I encourage you to look up the verses in your Bible and then highlight, circle, underline, or memorize the verses that really speak to you. As you apply God's Word to your life, you *will* become all that He created you to be. Enjoy!

- There is a King: 1 Timothy 1:17
  - The King loves you: John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:16–19
  - The spiritual battle is real: Ephesians 6:10–12
  - Lucifer (also known as Satan) is the enemy: Matthew 13:19; 1 Peter 5:8–9
  - Lucifer lies and deceives: John 8:44; Revelation 12:7–9
  - Lucifer desired to be like the Most High God: Isaiah 14:12–15
  - Lucifer fell from heaven, took a third of the angels with him, and lost his place in heaven: Revelation 12:3–4a, 7–9
  - The world sells Lucifer’s lie: 1 Corinthians 3:19; Colossians 2:8; 1 John 2:15–17
  - The flesh (our sinful nature) buys the lie: Matthew 16:26; Romans 8:5–8; Galatians 5:19–21
  - There is an inward struggle because of the three influences—Satan, the world, and the flesh: Ephesians 2:1–3
  - Be alert; Satan prowls around looking for someone to devour: 1 Peter 5:8–9
  - Be alert; Satan wants to keep you caught up in the vicious cycle of lies: 2 John 1:7–11
  - God is drawing you with His loving-kindness: Jeremiah 31:3
  - There is truth: Psalm 33:4; John 14:6 & 17:17
  - The truth will set you free: John 8:32; Romans 12:2
  - God wants you to discover the depth of His love, which surpasses all understanding: Ephesians 3:14–19
  - You have the ability to become more than a conqueror: Romans 8:37
19. **Many times when you are studying God’s Word, you will find that a particular verse touches you profoundly. Which foundational truth from the above verses spoke the deepest to you? Why?**

Consider memorizing the verse that spoke the deepest to you. Memorizing Scripture is important because it allows you to ponder the truth contained within the verse. This pondering allows the passage to minister deeper to your heart needs, which, in turn, enables transformation in your life. If you struggle with memorization, try to grab hold of the concept contained within the verse and memorize that. It’s life changing.

## **Devotion (Especially for Those Who Love Journaling)**

How has this lesson encouraged you? Share your heart with the Lord. He enjoys spending time with you. Then wait quietly. Listen to His still small voice. Write down anything He impresses upon your heart. Perhaps it's a verse you keep thinking about or simply an impression saturating you with joy, such as, "I am loved by God. I can trust in His unfailing love." Just start writing.

Never forget—God loves you more than you know.



