

Isaiah 52:7 **A message of grace, peace and blessing**
 NIV

**7 How beautiful on the mountains
 are the feet of those who
 bring good news,
 who proclaim peace,
 who bring good tidings,
 who proclaim salvation,
 who say to Zion,
 "Your God reigns!"**



Numbers 6:24-26 NIV
**The LORD bless you
 and keep you;
 the LORD make his face shine
 on you
 and be gracious to you;
 the LORD turn his
 face toward you
 and give you peace.**

The significance of the garment

Put on the full Armour of God - Eph 6

**Clothed with garments of salvation and
 a robe of righteousness - Is 61: 10**

**Clothe yourselves with compassion,
 kindness, humility, gentleness and
 patience - Col 3: 12**

**Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus
 Christ - Rom 13: 14**



**What is the function of clothes?
 How do we choose what to wear?
 How do they affect confidence?
 Why did Paul & Silas choose to
 put on 'the garment of praise'
 when in prison?
 What effect did it have?**

He gave me beauty for ashes,
 The oil of joy for mourning,
The garment of praise
 For the spirit of heaviness.
 That we might be trees of righteousness,
 The planting of the Lord,
 That He might be glorified. SoF 162

The spirit of heaviness

What causes a spirit of heaviness?

- Pain and sickness
- Death of loved ones
- Money worries
- Family disputes
- War and rumours of war
- Injustice
- Unpardoned sin
- Loneliness
- Anxiety about the future
- Regrets about the past
- Feelings of inadequacy
- Disappointment, confusion
- Lack of fulfilment, emptiness
- Bitterness, sorrow, despair

How do we find relief?

- Turn to Jesus in repentance
- Receive forgiveness and new life



Luke 4: 18-21 - Isaiah 61 fulfilled

Praise God for answered prayer

Acts 16: Paul & Silas released



Holy Spirit brings renewal of heart and mind Seek a fresh anointing with the oil of joy

1 Thess 5: 16-18 NIV

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Ps 23: 5 NIV

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

New birth brings light, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Faith & hope replace gloom & despair.

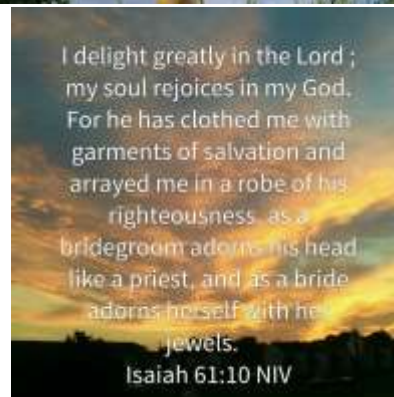
¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And always be thankful. Col 3 NLT



The garment of praise in New Covenant of grace

- David in Psalms
- Isaiah's prophecy
- Life, death & resurrection of Jesus
- Disciples on day of Pentecost
- Paul & Silas in Acts 16

- Our own experience today
- Gratitude, thanksgiving, adoration
- Prayer, praise, songs of worship
- The practice of the presence of God
- Awareness of God's mercy & grace
- Humility of spirit, garment of praise
- Worn in thankfulness, well-fitting
- Spreading blessing through happiness



Abba, Father, you are the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. You are my Creator and my Counsellor, guiding me daily to make wise decisions. You are my Comforter in sorrow, pain, or distress. You are my heavenly Father. How great is your faithfulness, God, day after day.

You are holy, yet you made a way for me to approach you. I praise you for being my Helper, and for your Holy Spirit's conviction, correction, and protection in my life. You are Jehovah God, and Jehovah Jireh, the One who provides for all my needs. You are King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. You are Jesus, the name above all names.

With my whole heart I praise you, God. You are Messiah, the soon and coming King. You are my Peace, my Protector, my Redeemer and Sacrifice forever. You died to set me free; you rose again and gave me victory over death. No longer am I enslaved in sin; you are my Salvation, my Rescuer and my Refuge. You give me hope.

I praise you because you are trustworthy and true. You are my Teacher, and your understanding and wisdom is infinite; you promise wisdom to me when I ask. You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Lord, I love that you delight in me and that you rejoice over me with singing.

You are preparing a place for me so that one day I will live with you forever. Maybe then—and only then—will I be able to praise you adequately in a way not possible here on earth—the way you *truly* deserve. Lord, how excellent is your name in all the earth! Amen
(by Rebecca Barlow Jordan, [A Prayer to Praise God](#) – with edits)