

CNL Season 2009  
5.2 Dress for Success part 2  
Transcription

some believe, I remember when I was a young man hearing a man speak on the tabernacle, he believed, for example, if there was sin in the nation and the high priest said God, which tribe is the sin in? If it were the tribe of Benjamin for example, it would light up. That literally like with the Shekinah Glory, the bright light, these stones would light up. And when it lit up, that high priest knew that's where the sin was. Other theologians believe it was a couple of stones, perhaps that were inside the garment of the priest and what he would do is he would take these stones and the markings on them. Think about dice, how many sides does the dice have? Six, so you are looking at 6 times 2 is 12 and how many tribes are there? 12. Some theologians believe they would take these stones and they would roll them and they could see where the problem was in the camp. Now the Urim, what's interesting about the word Urim, it means lights. The word Thummim directs the concept of perfection. So, some believe that somehow the light would identify the tribe where the problems were and somehow the Thummim would articulate exactly where the problem was. There is a passage in Joshua chapter 9 that talks about how God spoke. And how he told the high priest to find the problems, so other theologians believe what would happen is, there would be a white stone which comes from Revelation 2 and the high priest would go around to all the camps because all the camps were outside the tabernacle. They were divided all around the tabernacle and this high priest would just walk around and as he would walk around, he would put the stone in front, it would be a clear stone like this, some theologians believe the Urim and Thumrnim was one clear stone and it was a diamond.

And in Revelation Chapter 2 it talks about how the names will be engraved on the diamond. They believe he would do this, he would walk around and literally, be able to, if he came toward the camp, for example: here are the Benjamites, over here you going to have, you have each one of these camps. You're from the tribe of Judah, that if the stone lit up, he knew that the sin was in that Camp, Then he would go down the walkway in between each one of these camps, all their tents, remember, were all laid out, laid out like a city- Every time this tabernacle was set up there were tents all around, divided by tribes. And he would walk down the rows, just like he's doing until he came to the household of where the sin was and at that point, the theologians believe that they would light up and he would know where the sin was. And so we know, for example, the city of Ai, Achan had committed a sin. And the priest figured out exactly, by God's directive, the scriptures says, where that household was that had it. So if the light went on, on that diamond, is there a light going on over them? Oh, oh, we're all going to stop and pray for this group right here. {laughter} But what would happen at that point is, for the Urim and Thummim, supernaturally, God would communicate where the problems were. Now wouldn't that be great in your household just to be able to know by aiming this at yourself; one of your family members where the problem was in your family. For fifteen hundred dollars I will sell you this. No. {laughter} That is exactly what it was. Because he was the God who saw. And so this was his way of saying, folks, I see- So when they saw the priest coming around and he had the Urim and Thummim, whatever they were. Whatever these stones were, whatever kind of signals God gave through the Urim and Thummim, as he came around, they kept remembering, you know what, God's watching. God's watching, God's watching, God's watching, God's watching. That certainly helps

in our lifestyles knowing that God's watching, doesn't it? Of course it does. I think all of us are recognizing that the older we get, and so, here we have these verses, in fact we can jump past them, but Numbers 27 is an example there of how the Urim gave direction before the Lord, Samuel 28, how Saul tried to get direction but instead went to a witch. He tried to get direction from the Urim and Thummim and because he wasn't satisfied with what he heard or didn't hear, he went and got a witch to do it. But the last thing is Joshua 7. Now if you look down there, Joshua 7:1-8,9; this is the story of Achan's house. Now I want to just tell you this very quickly. This is how the story goes—they have come into the Promise land having victories. God says, don't touch the spoils. Don't touch the cattle, don't touch the silver, and if you find silver and gold, diamonds, it doesn't matter don't touch it. Bury it with the city. Now this is kind of tough. Because if your figuring, well your future and prosperity is going to come from what we conquer from these people, so I hate to waste it. But Israel obeyed except for one guy, his name was Achan, Well, so God reveals to the high priest, and reveals to the priest, ok there's sin in the camp and he directs him, I believe, probably through this supernatural device, but he directs him where to find the sin in the camp. He tells Achan to go inside his tent, Achan pulls back this huge carpet on the floor and there buried under his tent are all these huge bars of silver. All these very wealthy metals and these valuables. He could have bought dozens of slaves with them and all kinds of stuff. He comes out and God directs Joshua and the leadership what to do. They say, did you steal these? Yes. Did you know God said not to do it? Achan admitted yes. And what they did that day was not only punish Achan, because what had happened you see, the way that they knew there was sin in the camp, they started losing all the battles. Now stick with me. They lost a huge battle at AI

and when they lost that battle at Ai, Joshua says this is ridiculous we just finished tumbling Jericho for heaven sake, this big, massive fortress, how can we lose against Ai? And it became clear that there was sin in the camp. So you see Israel suffered, didn't they? When you have sin in our life folks, you're not the only one who suffers for it. Others can suffer as well. And so what happened was, he was brought out of his tent with his entire family- This is one of those very hard places in the Bible, but, not only was Achan put to death, but so was his entire family- His whole family- His wife, his children, Now, that's a mind blower. I'll guarantee though, it was the beginning of the Promise land, and God said, I'm going to sober this nation up. When I say, how to deal with the enemy, when I say how to rear your home, when I say what the penalty for sin is, I mean it and I want to tell you, he was a merciful God. We've seen God's mercy, but there are times also that He disciplined. Now what was going on? Why did God do this? Let me just show you what happened because of the sin that they had in this camp. First of all many died, if you'll circle the word died, by the way, that little circle next to the word sin is just to show you we're going to circle five words in one through five. First of all many died, you see, Achan wasn't the only who suffered. If you pick up venereal disease, this is a pretty blunt discussion here, but if you get venereal disease and you take it home and your wife contracts it, she is pregnant and that baby contracts it, guess what, you didn't suffer alone, did you? We're talking about the reality that sin is something which is not a private matter. And definitely not private when it comes to God. Rebelling against God's laws you can only do it for so long folks. You know, if you're supposed to go scuba diving, you follow certain tips about making sure that the air in the tanks is filled. Well, you might get away with it several times you don't check the air in the tanks,

but the day that you didn't check the air in the tanks may be the day that there's no air in the tanks and when you're thirty feet down and all of a sudden you're going, ah, and you can't breathe, what happens, there's a penalty for not having followed the rules Amen? In other words, the purpose of rules from God is just to save our lives. You all know that? Rules weren't meant to make us miserable, rules were meant to keep us alive, When you jump off that bungee jump and they say lock the fastener at the ankles, you go, ah, I'll be alright. The purpose of the rule is what? To keep you alive. And so God, said, I want Israel to live. I want Israel to succeed. I want them to will the battles but you're not going to win it on your own terms folks. Because he says, you're my people and if you're my people, act like my people. So, the people were harmed. Number 2, the army melted in fear. Circle the word fear. You ever find in your life, if you have sin in it, that you're disobeying God, you have more fear than, and you have faith. You notice your fear about things more, you fear the future of your employment, and you fear all kinds of stuff. You know why? Because, when you stop living by faith, you have less faith. When you have less faith, you know what the opposite of faith is; fear- The opposite of faith is fear, say that with me- The opposite of faith is fear, Think about it, isn't that true. When you're living by faith you don't have fear. You're confident, why? Because you believe how the end result is going to come out, But, if you have a lack of faith, because you're not living by faith, and living by faith means, obedient to God's word and his directives on how to lead your home and how to live your life. Then of course you're going to have fear. You're going to have fear of getting caught doing what' wrong. You're going to have fear of failing because you're not doing it 'the way God said to do it, Of course you'll have fear. So if you're sick and tired of fear, begin living by faith. And living by faith

means beginning to reflect God in his word. Three: Joshua doubted God. Suddenly doubt came into this great leader's mind. Circle the word doubt, that's another thing that follows fear. You begin to doubt what you're doing. You begin to doubt why and if you should be doing what God said to do, cause now you've really forgotten what God said to do. The fourth thing, God threatens to withdraw. Circle the word withdraw. About this part, now you've begun to be fearful and you've begun to get doubtful and before you know it, you're wondering, God are you even there- Are you even there, can you hear me? Come on, we can, all relate to this can't we? I sure can. Those moments, I'm going, what am I doing? I mean Lord, are you talking to me. Hearing me moments of silence perhaps. A lot of times that comes because we have fear and we have doubt, We need to sit back and say, ok, Lord, where am I? Am I out of line with your will? Ok, I'm spending too much time here. Not spending enough time with my children training them up Ok, I'm not being the father I should be in the home. I'm living fearfully on, their future because I'm not really investing in their present- Once again, I living In fear of their future because I'm not investing in their present. You invest in their present; you'll live less in fear of their future because you have faith that by investing in their present now, by God's grace, you'll know what their future will be like. Are you all with me? These fear faith things always connect. And it comes down to how the word of God says to lead up our homes. And the last thing is, Achan and his family were destroyed. How many times have we seen families destroyed because they were full of fear, they were full of doubts, and they didn't feel the presence of God because that leadership and the Godly presence wasn't there from the top down. Now, I've got the good news for you though, the sin was eliminated and some great things happened. First of all, they got encouraged.

Would you fill in number one? Encouragement came from God. Encouragement came from God. Hallelujah. God is an encourager, We should always be encouragers. Tell you this true story I just read about from California newspaper, Orange County, Gazette I think it was. When those huge fires happened out in California, when the firefighters went back in. These forests are burned to crisp, thousands of acres, they found on top of a mountain a man's body. Now that's not shocking because they said they had found hundreds of people who have died throughout the years in these forest fires. Now what's odd about it though, this man on top of this mountain was decked out complete in scuba gear. True story, just happened a few weeks ago. I'm talking about the rubber suit, you know the wet suit from the head to toes, the big flippers, the goggles, the big tank on the back, the hand gloves, everything. This guy's on top of the mountain, burned up in the middle of this forest in a scuba outfit. Now if you walked upon that you'd be wondering, what in the world is this guy doing here in a scuba outfit. It's the top of a dry mountain. They didn't realize until forty hours later, when there was a complaint from a woman whose husband was missing. And what had happened was, he had been scuba diving off the coast, off the Pacific coast. And apparently those huge helicopters, you've seen them that have these double rotors? And they've got these huge, big, looks like swimming pool vats, that they open up and the chemicals and water go spraying upon, you've seen them spray on the forest fire. Apparently they had gone and hovered over the Pacific Ocean and gone down to pick up this water and scoop this water. You're going to think there's a punch line, there's no punch line here, they scooped up all these millions of gallons of water, picked him up and flew over this raging inferno and dropped the water, unfortunately with the scuba diver in

it. Imagine having been that scuba diver. You're just swimming along peacefully one moment and the next moment there's walls everywhere you can see and the next moment you're kind of feel like you're moving, the next moment you're flying through the air onto an inferno of flames. Now, the reason I tell you that is one of the concepts of encouragement. You say how does that encourage me? {laughter} I can encourage you never swim again; I'm not much for the water anyway so that just confirmed it there. But, how does that encourage you, cause the next time one of your family members say, I'm really having a rotten day, say, sit down, let me tell you a story. That guy had a rotten day, I mean, you know what, our paradigm is what makes us, we get so self-centered in our paradigms we start thinking, it's a terrible day, it's a terrible day, oh life is so rough. Until we start seeing another paradigm. You know what the responsibility of the father and the mother in the home is, paradigm shift your children 24 hours a day They have become self-indulgent, spoiled, self-centered children who grow up into self-indulgent, spoiled, self-centered adults. Let them know that this is not the hardest life they will ever live. Let them know that this is not the toughest times of their life. That God is Jireh, He's the provider, he will provide a way out, he will bless them, but they've got to take their eyes off themselves and focus it on God and a good way to take it off themselves is to give them a few examples in the Bible of people who have suffered for the faith. You open Fox's Book of Martyrs. I don't know if you've ever read Fox's Book of Martyrs. It's about people who had their skin striped from their bodies as they were placed upon poles, driven down, on poles and had tar poured on them and lit on fire for banquets as they were alive- You know what, that's a tough day. We need a paradigm shift our children with the truth of God's word and the truth of the life of Christ and it will cause

us once again to have an attitude of gratitude. The second thing that we're responsible for is this, that Israel eliminated sin, obeyed God this is something that God gives to us is that we can get his presence. God was present in the battle. We can once again feel his presence in life, folks- When we get rid, eliminate the sin in our lives which is many times not properly leading our homes, we get back focused on God, one of the neat things is we start feeling God's guidance. I got to tell you, more than once, I'll just confess it to you, more than once my sermons have come at a time I was sitting with children reading the word with to them. And all of a sudden they ask questions, I start explaining things, I go, hey that's a good point and I write it down. And then five minutes later, I'll be explaining something to them, hey, that's a good point. Write it down you heard it the next Sunday- I mean, I've got to tell you the truth, some of the things I've learned the most in life, I'm explaining to my children, this is how you have to see things. And suddenly my mind goes, well, that's not how you solved the issue yesterday. Or I'm saying this is how you need to deal with that other child and I'm explaining it to him and in my mind, of course, the Lord is talking to me going, that's not how you dealt with him yesterday. It's like Lord, its one thing to give them the truth; it's another thing for me to have to it. You know what I mean. You ever been there? That's what's wonderful when you minister to children, the Holy Spirit begins to minister and teach you. He begins to talk to you as you minister properly to your family. He begins to be present in the daily battles. I've got to tell you, I train up my little boys, from the time they're four, five years old, this may sound silly, but I do train up my little boys to feel responsible for Maria. Now when Maria, my wife is home and I have to go out of town, I sit down with both of them, even back when Gideon was four years old, and Joe was seven or eight years old, I

would sit down with them and say, OK, guys, listen, you're now the head of the home, you're the man of the house. I want you to take care of Mom. I'll bring Maria in the room, I'll say, see this lady, you got to take care of her. No matter what it takes, you take care of her. They go over and give her a hug, and they kind of surround her, their little arm reaching around her. And you know what, I have done that probably a hundred times and do you know, those boys, when I go out of town, they are preoccupied with protecting her. When they drove into Virginia once, I had to fly out to meet them later because I couldn't go with them, at the same. Once night it was raining and storming, they were at a hotel, it was about 11 o'clock at night and Maria said; now boys, I'm going to lock this door. Don't answer the door because I have a key, don't let anybody into the hotel room, I'm going down to the car. And immediately the boys both jumped up. I think Joe was about 9 years old or 10 years old at this time, Gideon was probably seven or so. They both, jumped up, and said Morn, are you kidding me, you can't go out there alone. We're supposed to take care of you. They got out of their warm beds, cold, drizzly night, put their shoes and socks on, got fully dressed and they stood on either side of her and held her arms and they walked her down to the car to get whatever she needed to get out of the car, And this is absolutely true. And they walked her back up stairs. Maria said she could see in their faces a total content that had taken care of Mom. Now that may sound silly, but I'm going to tell you what, when they're twenty years old and they're married and their wife's in need, they're not going to go play golf or go watch a movie, you know what they're going to do, they're going to take care of their wife. You know why? Because they know, they made a covenant from their childhood up, you take care of this lady- This is train up the child in the way they should go when they're old they

don't depart from it. I want to encourage you on the concepts. What we're talking about is husbands and wives both, last week we focused on Biblical manhood, but I'm talking now, in the home we must have the mind of Christ, the wife, we must have we're separate, we're unique under the Lord. We don't do things like everybody else, we're heavenly covered, and we have God's guidance and his word is written on our hearts. And you have it as a lifestyle, not as a religion on the weekends, but it's a lifestyle that your children live and I guarantee it will change their world. It will totally change their world. The third thing is this, when they got it back together, Israel got it together, something else happened, according to the book of Joshua, God guided, number three, God guided and promised victory. Do you want victory in your life, Amen, Well God promises he will give you guidance and victory when you start living according to his order. This is a true story 'just want, to read you quickly. About a little boy, his name was Sparky School was all but impossible for Sparky. He failed every single subject in the eighth grade. This is a true story, he flunked physics in high school- In fact his grade in high school in physics was zero, not even a two. It Was Zero. He flunked Latin. Algebra and English. He did even worse in sports. And though he got on the golf team, he never won a single match. He never won a single match. He was awkward socially. He never was disliked by the other students, they just didn't really care. Nobody really talked to him. In fact if anybody would say hello to him he would be startled that someone actually spoke to him. He never went out in high school because he was terrified he would get rejected. So he never even had a date in high school, He was what was called a loser even his classmates knew it. He rolled with the punches, he figured. Ok, if I'm going to be mediocre, I'm still going to try to do something that I enjoy in life. And there was one

thing he loved to do, it was drawing. He was proud of his artwork even though nobody appreciated, in his senior year of high school he submitted some cartoons to the editor of the yearbook, and they were rejected flat out. They said it was the worst art they had ever seen. After leaving high school he wrote a letter to Walt Disney Studios and said, please would you look at my art work. They went ahead and said draw some cartoons. He sent it, finally the reply came from Disney Studios, he was rejected once again, and they had no interest. It'd be best if you got another occupation it was said. So Sparky decided to write his own autobiography, this is how he dealt with this issue. He just said, I'm going to just sit down and write how I feel. He wrote his own autobiography and he did it as a cartoon. His life as an underachiever and a loser. And the cartoon, ironically, became one of the most successful cartoons in the world. Because Sparky, the boy who had such a lack of success in school, whose work was rejected over and over and over and over and over, His name was Charlie Schultz He created the Peanuts comic strip or the little cartoon character whose kites would never even fly. Had never even succeeded at kicking a football. And the reason he was able to tell that story so eloquently is because, Charlie Brown was Charlie Schultz. And I look at story and I think to myself, nobody saw the potential. But look at the potential he had. And one of the things about our God, El Roi, who sees, is folks, one of the neat things is, he sees the potential. 'Whether the crowd affirms it or not, he sees the potential of what he wants you to do. And when you look at this third point which is on this outline, God didn't promise victory, you know what at the point that they got whipped by this little town, the whole crowd may have said, you know I don't see any potential of us taking the Holy Land, I mean to tell you the truth, Joshua, it looks pretty pathetic, we can't even beat this small group. He says, no, no, we're going

to do it God's way, now, guess what, the potential is unlimited. And when you live your life according to God's plan, your family's potential is unlimited, there's no end to what your family can do to glorify God. You may think, I was thinking about success in my business, let me just tell you, if you have success in your home life, no matter how much success in your business it will never match what it is like to live in a family that's living for Christ. Cause many a man I've seen, as Abe always said, it's that oldest phrase in the world, I've never heard a man on his death bed, I've heard a thousand of them say, Oh, if I only spent more time with my family, but I have yet one to say oh. I wish I had made more money. Something to think about. Our last point here, last point. Let me just tell you what I think increases, but that's going to be the fourth, one, he gave them plunder and increase from their battles, If you raise your home on these principles of moral purity, consistent living, truth, having the mind of Christ, having heavenly covering, having that confidence, and holiness in the Lord, those points we had one through seven, folks, you're going to find an increase in your life, professionally and privately and personally. Increases are a hundred different things. Let me just tell you something, Dustin Curly called last night, we had a worship service here, had a really long day and I was kind of exhausted, Dustin Curly called and talked to Maria. I don't know if you all know Dustin but he's a guy who is right now studying for the ministry and he used to work with our youth ministry here. And he told us about how he was working at a construction site right now. And he was telling how he was talking to this guy and this one Latin fellow walked up and a Hispanic guy and he said, listen, and he said, you know how are things going? They were talking about building and everything else and so Dustin, you know he's always evangelizing, so he started bringing up Jesus Christ.

The guy goes, oh, Jesus Christ, man, I tell you I'm a Christian. I love Jesus And Dustin was excited, They began talking about Christ and everything else and the guy listening to Dustin said, by the way where do you go to church? .Destin said told him and he said oh, man, Pete Spencer's the pastor right? And he says, let me just tell you something, years, ago, decades ago, I lived down the Apache Court. Now if you know what the Apache Courts, anybody who doesn't know what the Apache Courts is? That is a rough, gang ridden area of town, downtown for years one of the toughest areas of town, low income housing doesn't even express it. Government funded, gang warfare, drug environment. And before I began pastoring, God had called me and convicted me to stay down on the streets of San Antonio, and sometimes overnight, several nights in a row and just witness to people and go into Apache Courts and witness to people and go with the guy who carried a cross and that's all we did. We went door to door. Everybody in town said don't go door to door there. Go door to door, you know somewhere like in a mall, but don't go door to door there. But it was just a conviction we had. We stuck out like sore thumbs from everybody else, but you know God did some neat stuff. He said years ago, you know what, I was at a point and my life was about to be ended and he said I got to tell you the truth, he walked up and knocked on the door of my house, I opened the door and wondered what's this guy doing here. A half hour later we were down on our knees and he lead me to Christ. He said, man, just tell your pastor the good news, I'm living for Christ, I'm on fire for Jesus. I hear him on the radio all the time, and he says I'm serving in ministry and I'm serving in church, he said; just let him know the good news. He says, if he thinks all that time was wasted, there's at least one person. I know Jesus still and I will always love him forever. Now I got to tell you when Dustin called and told us that, I

felt an increase. I felt like the richest guy in the world. I was so tired last night, I was almost feeling discouraged over a couple of things that have been going on that I've had to deal with and I've got to tell you, God's timing was perfect. And if he had called and said, hey, Pete there's an extra hundred dollars in your account, extra thousand dollars, turned out on the books. It would not have been the same as this fellow saying, oh, yeah Apache Courts, he came to my door. I know Jesus. That to me was one of the most blessed moments of my life and the reason I share that with you is, where are you looking for your increase? Really, where's your priority for your increase? Where's your first priority? Because if your first priority is the silver under your carpet the blessings not going to be there as if you first priority is the family that God gave you. I cannot encourage you enough in this house, husband and wives, you're sitting there perhaps your mind is running, but one of the key things to El Roi, the God who sees, if you're in here today and. I'm going to be frank, and I started off, E Roi, the God who sees, you might have suddenly thought to yourself if you're living in sin right now, he sees that. He see that Sin. And if your one who's sitting there and it says God who sees, but you're one of those people you felt abandoned by God and you haven't felt his voice for a long time, you say I wish God did see. Or you're perhaps one of those people that, you walked in here and you have a disposition that you were simply negative, you say I don't care if he's looking, let me just tell something to you, it matters where you are right now as to how powerful the phrase El Roi means to you, But no matter where you are right, if you're in sin, God's watching. If you're discouraged, God's aware of it. If you're trying to find guidance in your life, God has you sitting here today for this very reason to hear the word, because he does see. The best proof that he sees in your life is the fact that

you're sitting here today, learning that he's watching and nothing will affect your life as much as knowing he stands there he's watching. And if you have sin in your life, he's watching, he wants you to know he's watching, but he wants you to reconcile with him and turn away from the sin. And if you're feeling alone, He wants you to recognize He's watching and that He's still there with you. And the precious thing about El Roi, those two words, they're very short words, let me encourage you, He sees, He sees. A child in pain today, He sees. A husband with no job, He sees, a wife frustrated at home, He sees children that don't understand what it is to be in this home with these parents and there's a total division, he sees. He sees, He sees and you know what, the greatest thing in life is not only to know that God sees, but to learn to open our eyes and see like God sees. And I want to tell you, those seven points that are at the top, I taught as concepts on how we should live our lives in the home. But you know what, the Bible teaches not only as that, but as the concept of how we know that God was watching. And when that stone was held up, when that breastplate was shown to people, they all said, Jehovah, sees. El Roi. So no matter where you are today, he's watching. It's good news. May be frightening news if there's sin in your life, but its good news because he never stops watching. That song. God is watching us, God is watching, us, God is watching us, what? From a distance, no he's not. He's right here, he's up close. Say El Roi, El Roi, and what does it mean? God sees. Think of it for a second, say it one more time, God sees- And let's add one word, add the word "me". God sees me. And no matter where you are in life right now, let it change your life, Amen. Let's close in prayer- Father, God, we worship and adore you, we thank you for being a lord who loves us....