

36-The Armor of God--- Your Word Like a Belt

Each day I put on the Armor of God. At the beginning of the day, I speak with God. The dialogue for the belt of truth is **“Wrap Your Word around me like a belt.** And safeguard me from error.”

The full armor of God is comprised of six elements. Today’s element is the Belt of Truth. **Ephesians 6:13-14** says “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist”.

What does it mean to have the belt of truth buckled around your waist? For the Roman soldier the belt secured all the other pieces of his armor. The scabbard which holds his sword was secured by the belt. Ephesians 6:13-14 is saying that truth should cleave to us as a belt cleaves to the body of a soldier. As a soldier in God’s army we must be empowered by truth. Whose truth? The only truth, the truth of God’s Word. **John 17:17** speaks to God’s truth “Sanctify them by the truth; your Word is truth.”

Why do we need truth? It is the litmus test for life. Without truth how can you know what is good and what is not? Consider **1 Thessalonians 5:21** “Test everything. Hold on to the good.” We live in a world where truth is what you want it to be. Only scripture establishes the absolute truth that we need to guide us through today’s chaotic world. How can you deal with the lies of the devil if you do not know the truth? When the devil tells you that sin will take away your salvation, how will you respond? If you know **John 6:47** “I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life”, then you can speak truth to the devil’s lie.

Further evidence of the power of truth is contained in **Romans 12:2** “Do not conform any longer 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.” The renewing of your mind means storing truth in your mind and your heart. To avoid conforming to the pattern of this world you must be able to identify what is good and what is not.

For me identifying truth is impossible without the Holy Spirit and the discernment that He brings to me. That quiet still voice can easily be overwhelmed by the world if I skip my morning quiet time. That hour is the most important hour of my day. Without it I am entering the world completely vulnerable to attack. Without that time of feeding my mind and heart I am exposing myself to the traps and snares of the evil one.

The Armor of God is essential if you are going to live a life of peace and joy. Ignore one of the six pieces and you leave yourself and everyone in your sphere vulnerable. Ignore the Word and you are left without the means to test for truth. You are now vulnerable to lies and half-truths. They are the most effective tools in the devil’s arsenal. Only your knowledge of the Word can counter the falsehoods of the evil one. If you don’t want the deceiver to trip you up then you must know the truth!

Verses:

1 John 3:18 “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth”

James 1:18 “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created”

John 8:32 “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”

Personal Reflection:

Are you spending enough time learning truth from your Creator? Are you connected to brothers/sisters who hold you accountable?

Group Discussion:

How can you encourage the group to learn and share the truth of the Word?

Will you hold yourself and the other members of the group accountable?