

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Christian's Holy War

The Belt of TRUTH

Ephesians 6:10-18 ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Each piece of the armor God offers to the Christian has great meaning in both the type of implement and the Godly characteristic described ^{Ephesians 6:14-17}. The first weapon is the Belt of Truth, and this study presents Biblical verses illustrating the importance of the Belt & the Truth, as applied to life and the spiritual battles believers face each day.

A Belt is important not only in everyday life, but also to the Warrior in battle.

Different kinds of Belts have been worn by many people throughout time.

Daniel 10:5 I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. [Daniel saw Jesus in a Christophany]

Mark 1:6 John [the Baptist] wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

In Biblical times, people tucked their cloaks in their belts so they could move quickly.

Exodus 12:11 This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.

1 Kings 18:46 The power of the LORD came upon Elijah and, tucking his cloak into his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel. ^{2 Kings 4:29a}

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In a military application, many of the soldier's weapons were attached to his Belt.

2 Samuel 20:8b Joab was wearing his military tunic, and strapped over it at his waist was a belt with a dagger in its sheath.

Biblical answers to the question Pontius Pilate asked Jesus: "What is Truth?" John 18:38

Truth saves people ^{John 3:21, 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 1 Timothy 2:4, Titus 1:1-3, James 1:18} and is a purifying agent when obeyed ^{1 Peter 1:22}, but the rejection of truth brings "anger and wrath" ^{Romans 2:8}.

Truth guides the life of a believer with light ^{Psalm 43:3} and directs their walk ^{Psalm 86:11, 3 John 1:4}.

Truth is eternal ("will be with us forever") ^{2 John 1:1-2} and never changes ^{Hebrews 13:8}.

Truth is held up by the "church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth" ^{1 Timothy 3:15}.

Truth includes wisdom, discipline and understanding ^{Proverbs 23:23}.

Truth works hand-in-hand with: right ^{Isaiah 45:19}, wisdom ^{Psalm 51:6}, grace ^{John 1:14,17}, action ^{1 John 3:18}, sincerity ^{1 Corinthians 5:8}, peace ^{Zechariah 8:19b}, love ^{Psalm 40:11, 1 Corinthians 13:6, 2 John 1:3}.

Truth is the opposite of: falsehood ^{Psalm 52:3} and a lie ^{Romans 1:25}.

Truth is the basis for judgement ^{Psalm 96:13, Romans 2:2}, because the law is truth ^{Psalm 119:30, 43} and the embodiment of "knowledge and truth" ^{Romans 2:20}.

Truth is distorted ^{Acts 20:30} and suppressed ^{Romans 1:18} by the wicked who are perishing.

Truth is the basis for all lasting accomplishments ^{2 Corinthians 13:8}.

Truth is specific – the Bible refers to it as "the truth" over 160 times ^{e.g., Isaiah 45:19b}.

In short, the Truth is the entirety of God's character and principles.

God's city, Jerusalem, is also referred to as the "City of Truth" ^{Zechariah 8:3}.

Truth belongs to God ^{Psalm 25:4-5, 26:3}, and He is the God of Truth ^{Psalm 31:5}.

The Bible is called the "Book of Truth" ^{Daniel 10:20-21}, the Truth is equated with the terms: God's "word" ^{1 Kings 17:24, John 17:17, 2 Timothy 2:15} and "gospel" ^{Galatians 2:5, Ephesians 1:13a, Colossians 1:5-6}.

The Jewish leaders spoke with the authority of Moses & the Prophets, but Jesus clearly taught in "accordance with the truth" ^{Mark 12:14} from His own (and His Father's ^{John 7:16-18}) authority by saying "I tell you the truth" 79 times in the NT ^{Matthew 5:18, Mark 3:28, Luke 4:24, John 1:51}.

Jesus Christ (God the Son) always speaks the Truth ^{John 18:23}, and, in fact, is "The Truth" ^{John 14:6}.

Furthermore, God the Father is called the "God of Truth" ^{Isaiah 65:16a} and God the Holy Spirit is also referred to as the Truth ^{John 14:15-17, 15:26, 16:13, 1 John 5:6}.

Please forward questions/concerns about these notes to ron price, pricegang@integrity.com, 505-294-4743.

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A believer is a “man of Truth” ^{John 7:18} and worships God in “spirit and truth” John 4:22-24.

Speaking and living in truth is vital for a genuine Christian to mature in their faith Ephesians 4:14-16, and will produce internal peace and a clear conscience Philippians 4:8-9.

Putting together the characteristics of the Belt and the Truth, the piece of God’s armor called the Belt of Truth not only physically holds together the clothing of the warrior so he can move about with ease, but also spiritually holds together the life of the Christian so he can move about in the spiritual battle without being encumbered by lies and falsehoods in his life that Satan can use as attack points. Being prepared with a purity of thought and a clear conscience, the Believer can be Victorious for God in the Battle.

In conclusion, as Jesus said ^{John 8:31-32, 36}:

If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.
So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Psalm 25:4-5 Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Psalm 31:5 Into your hands I commit my spirit ^{Luke 23:46}; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.

Psalm 40:11 Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me.

Psalm 51:6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Psalm 52:3 You love evil rather than good, falsehood rather than speaking the truth.

Psalm 119:43 Do not snatch the word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws.

Isaiah 45:19b I, the LORD, speak the truth; I declare what is right.

Isaiah 65:16a Whoever invokes a blessing in the land will do so by the God of truth; he who takes an oath in the land will swear by the God of truth.

Zechariah 8:3 This is what the LORD says: “I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain.”

Matthew 5:18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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John 4:22-24 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.

John 7:16-18 Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.”

John 14:6 “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:15-17 “If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”

John 17:17 “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

Romans 2:2 Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.

1 Corinthians 13:6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

Ephesians 1:13a And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

Ephesians 4:14-16 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Philippians 4:8-9 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

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

1 Peter 1:22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

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

3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

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