

The Armor of God- The Belt of Truth
Welcome to Harvest Community Church
Series: Battle Ready
Text: Ephesians 6:14-18

A belt seems like an insignificant thing until you don't have one. We are told to stand firm having the Belt of Truth **tightened** around our waist. **Ephesians 6:14 (AMP)** Of all of the armor and weapons we are given, truth is **central** to everything in spiritual warfare. It is truth that holds us together and keeps us from falling apart at the seams and becoming a mess. The belt was the most important part of all the weaponry that a Roman Soldier would wear. It was the belt that kept all of the other pieces of the armor connected to each other. With it a soldier was assured that all the other pieces of the equipment would stay in their place.

You would think that a belt would be the last place to start when you are putting on armor, but for the Roman Soldier it was the first piece. God started with the **middle** of the man. God is making a point. The thing that is the middle of the man is the thing that is the most important to the man. If you remove this piece of the armor, the man will fall apart. **Psalm 51:6**

The Belt of Truth is the **Word** of God. **John 17:17, Psalm 119:11** A soldier is only as good as what he puts inside of him. When we ignore the Word of God and cease to apply it to our lives on a daily basis, we will have willfully chosen to let our entire spiritual life come apart at the seams.

Many people view the Bible as boring and old. It is the **Logos** or written Word of God. People love to get a Rhema word or a supernatural quickening from God. The truth is we don't always get that when we would like it. But the Logos is always there. The Roman belt was not pretty and ornate, it was common looking, but every soldier had one. If you cast your belt aside everything else will **unravel**. Lay the truth aside and you will begin to lose the joy of your salvation, you will lose your sense of being the righteousness of God. Without the belt you lose your ability to believe and walk by faith. We cannot **function** as a believer without the Word of God (the truth) having an active and central role in our lives.

This piece of armor would protect the Roman soldier from the waist to the knees. The Belt of Truth deals with issues of maturity and **purity**. It is meant to protect the **sensitive** and intimate places. **Isaiah 11:5**

The Belt calls us to accountability of **honesty**. Our life should be pure in doctrine and in deed. We are to be true in the sense of **loyalty**, to God, our spouse, our commitments, and true in the sense of correct living.

The area of the loins is a **vulnerable** area and deals with **temptation**. We literally are praying a **chastity** belt of sexual purity. **Proverbs 5:15-21**

Since the loins are a place of reproduction, we are called to reproduce the truth and make **disciples** not physically but spiritually.

We need to pray for a love for souls and to accurately convey the truth of God's word.

John 14:6-7 Our ability to reproduce for God is directly tied to our relationship with the Word of God. We become spiritually **sterile** if we do not have God's Word actively operating in our life. Even God creates and produces by His Word. **Hebrews 11:3** God produced all of creation through His Word.

This is what happened to us when we were first saved. This is what keeps us from sin.

1 John 3:9 Just as a father's "seed" carries the genetic DNA that determines everything from our hair and eye color to our character...the divine seed produces in us the life of God the Father.

1 Peter 1:23 The Word of God is the seed we need for bringing life into every area of our life and for helping others to be born again into the Kingdom of God.

The belt is also meant to protect intimate and **tender** places that would hurt if attacked and embarrassed if exposed. It protects the hidden and personal areas of our life, our **weaknesses**.

Psalms 103:13-14, Psalms 25:5 The enemy likes to hit blow the belt and truth protects the inward man.

The Belt of Truth is so powerful and important that it can take the average individual and cause them to be **perfect** and completely equipped to do all good works. **2 Timothy 3:17** If we desire to walk in spiritual armor, then we must begin by taking up the Word of God and give it a central and dominant role in our life. The word 'equipped' in the Greek means to 'completely outfit and supply with all the gear we need for the battle'. **2 Timothy 3:17 (AMP)**

The Belt of Truth is tied into the breastplate of righteousness. God desires us to enjoy the fact that we are righteous in Christ. **Hebrews 5:12-13** When we ignore the Word of God in our life we are choosing to live in an **underdeveloped** skillfulness of righteousness. When we meditate, study and know the Word of God we discover what it is to live with a prevailing sense of righteousness. It is when we ignore the word that we feel condemned in almost every area of our lives. If we want to walk in the breastplate of righteousness, we need to make the Word of God a priority in our life.

It is through the Belt of Truth that we walk in **peace**. **Colossians 3:15** Too many Christians live with roller coaster emotions. We must allow the peace of God to **rule** in our hearts. That word 'rule' in the Greek means '**umpire**'. Paul was saying let the peace of God call the shots in your life. How do we do that? **Colossians 3:16 (NKJV & AMP)** When we allow the Word of God to **dwell** or take up residence in our heart, and to do so richly or with extreme extravagance, we will have peace.

A great version of this verse would be ~ *"Let the Word of Christ take up residence in your life and come to feel completely at home in you; give it the warmest, most extravagant and luxurious reception that is possible"*.

It is when we give the Word of God this kind of priority in our life that the peace of God will begin to call the shots in our life and not our emotions or circumstances.

Many people do not see the connection between our faith and the Word. Without the Word of God there is no Shield of Faith. **Romans 10:17**

Our Salvation is also directly connected to the truth found in the Word. **2 Timothy 3:15** The Power of God's Word makes us mentally alert and wise unto salvation.

It is the Belt of Truth that the Sword of the Spirit is sheathed on. In order to be well armed the Belt of Truth has to be worn. The Sword is always attached to the Belt. The two are vitally connected. Whenever you need a Word to fight the enemy it will always come out of the Truth. **Hebrews 4:12**

When we walk in the Word of God, we are always in a position for the Word to cut straight to the heart of things. It is the truth that knows how to separate and discern our true thoughts and intents from our emotions and self-deceptions.

Winning or losing in our battles is our choice. Without the Word of God being operational in our life, we have no support for the rest of the Armor. The battle is over before it even begins.

Many people only get the Word when they go to church. This is like a grown up still getting dressed by their mother. The teaching you receive from the pulpit should confirm what you already heard God say to you during the week. The Word given in church should help tighten your belt because you are getting a good meal. As we live life, our belt will need to be adjusted, repositioned and our shirts re-tucked due to use.

David wrote the longest chapter in the Bible dedicated to the importance of the Word. **Psalms 119:1-17, 25, 28, 33-38, 41-45, 50, 57-60, 65-72, 89-92, 97-105, 129-133**

It is when the Word of God has a central place in our life that we are able to be victorious over the enemy and in every area of our lives.