

The Real War

Week 2-Belt of Truth

We are all in a spiritual war, and that war is for our souls. God wants us to spend eternity with Him in heaven, but Satan wants us to spend eternity in hell. The enemy is really good at the using his schemes to attack us, lie to us, and try to prevent us from pressing into Jesus and the truth of who He is.

We must acknowledge and understand that we are in a war, and we are facing a great enemy and the war and the enemy are spiritual. We have to learn who we are fighting, what weapons he uses and how we are supposed to fight back.

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NIV)

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.**

Who is the enemy?

- 1) Satan - "Adversary" or "Accuser." (Job 1:6)
- 2) Devil - "Slanderer" or "Accuser." (Matthew 4:1)
- 3) Serpent - "Snake" or "Deceiver." (Genesis 3)
- 4) Beelzebub - "Lord of the Flies" or "Lord of Filth." (Matthew 12:24)
- 5) Tempter - "One who tests or tempts." (Matthew 4:3)
- 6) Evil One - Meaning: "Wicked" or "Malicious." (Matthew 13:19, 1 John 5:19).
- 7) Prince of the Power of the Air - Ruler of worldly and spiritual influence. (Ephesians 2:2)
- 8) Dragon - "Monster" or "Dragon." (Revelation 12)
- 9) Accuser of the Brethren - One who brings charges against God's people. (Revelation 12:10)
- 10) Apollyon - "Destroyer." (Revelation 9:11)

John 10:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

11) **god of This World** - The spiritual ruler of worldly systems. (2 Corinthians 4:4)

12) **Adversary** - "Opponent" or "Legal Foe." (1 Peter 5:8)

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

⁸ **Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.**

13) **Father of Lies** - Source of deceit and falsehood. (John 8:44)

John 8:42-44 (NIV)

⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. ⁴³ **Why is my language not clear to you?** Because you are unable to hear what I say. ⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, **not holding to the truth**, for **there is no truth in him**. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for **he is a liar and the father of lies**.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 (NLT)

How do we fight Him?

Ephesians 6:13-18 (NIV)

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 Lord's people.**

He starts out with the belt of truth because he knows that the number one weapon the enemy has in his arsenal is lies. All of the other pieces of armor that we are told to put on are all contingent upon us believing the truth.

The only way we can combat the lies of the enemy is with the truth.

When we stand in the truth, lies fall to the ground

John 14:6 (NLT)

⁶ Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

Let's get practical

How is it that the Devil lies to us?

1) Temptation

Remember the Devil is called the tempter in Matthew 4:3 (Jesus in the wilderness).

Every day he will tempt you to disobey God, and to sin. He will say things like...

- It isn't that big of a deal
- You deserve it
- No one will find out
- This will make you happy
- This will be good for you
- God will just forgive you anyway

Then you sin...and this is where lie #2 comes in...

2) Accusation

The Devil is called the accuser of The brethren, so naturally when we give in to that temptation, he will begin to accuse us of the very thing that he tempted us to do. He say things like...

- You did that? Do you know how big of a deal that is?
- God is mad at you.
- There's no coming back from this one.
- You don't deserve God's love
- God has abandoned you.
- Are you even saved?

The enemy will lie to us by tempting us, and then accuse us of the very lie we believed.

If we focus on what we did, we lose sight of what Jesus has done

John 3:17(NIV)

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Romans 8:1 (NLT)

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

When we stand in the truth, lies fall to the ground

So, when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: "I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!"

-Martin Luther

Let's stand in the truth right now

If you have or are believing the lie that...

-God can't forgive me because of all I have done

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

-God doesn't love me

Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

-God has left me

Hebrews 13:5b (NIV)

-Accusing you of weak faith

Mark 9:24b (ESV)

-Accusing you of being fearful

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

Philippians 4:8 (NLT)

⁸And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Belt of Truth Prayer

God, right now I put on the belt of truth. Please help me today to identify the lies of the enemy and combat them with the truth of your word. I pray that I will live according to that truth, and if I am tempted today to lie, manipulate, exaggerate, or omit information I shouldn't, that I would not give in. Please help me to stand in your truth, so that the lies of the enemy will fall to the ground.