

# SHEDDING LIGHT ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE

## God's Armory

## Study 6

*“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, And with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.*

*In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

*Take the helmet of salvation & the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God.”*  
**Ephesians 6:14-17**

This spiritual war is not one that we have to go into alone. The six pieces of spiritual armour are listed above. Avoiding becoming a casualty of this spiritual warfare can be accomplished by wearing the full armour of God!

### #1 – Belt of Truth

Paul first tells us to have *“the belt of truth buckled around [our] waist”*. It refers to the belt that harnessed the soldier's weapons to his body. Today's well-dressed soldiers are outfitted with a combat harness, a modern version of the Roman soldier's belt, but which serves the same function. It allows them to carry all their needed equipment in a confined space under combat conditions.

For the Christian, this combat harness is **truth**. Paul said *“stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist”*. This is important because of the nature of our enemy. Satan is determined to hinder & harm God's work in our lives. He is here to steal, to kill & to destroy. He's like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. He is a liar from the beginning... a deceiver, a serpent. He is the accuser of the brethren; whatever he says to us is a distortion.

During World War II, Sir Winston Churchill adopted, as a working thesis, the assumption that any given foreign policy statement by Hitler was the exact opposite of truth. It was an assumption that served Churchill well, for Hitler was a liar & deceiver from the beginning.

We can make the same assumption about the devil. **John 8** says that Satan is a liar... & there is no truth in him. He comes at us with deception, sham, trickery & falsity. He wants to entangle us. Notice how he has blurred the values of right & wrong in our society. Notice how his propaganda machine – today's mass entertainment media – glorifies immorality while ridiculing biblical values.

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That means that Christians must be children of truth. So let's look at these verses: **John 14:6; John 1:14; John 17:17; & John 8:31-32.**

In order to be armed with the truth, we must *know* the truth & God has put everything He wants us to know between the covers of the Bible. When we study God's Word, carefully analyse & apply its truth, we end up with power in our lives & God will begin to show us how we can be victorious on the battlefield.

When I was a kid my grandfather told me that if you want to identify a crooked stick, the best thing you can do is lay a straight stick down next to it. That same principle works when dealing with the deceit of Satan. If you will lay the "straight stick" of God's Word next to what it is you are trying to discern, you will usually be able to identify Satan's deceitful propaganda.

The Apostle Paul warns that Satan takes advantage of us when we are ignorant of his strategies (**2 Corinthians 2:11**). Truth is objective. It's there. It's true or it's not true. But truthfulness is somewhat subjective. Truthfulness is whether or not the truth we have about God has caused us to be people who are truthful. If we want to be warriors in the battle against Satan, we have to have integrity & sincerity. See **3 John 1:4**.

Now it is not uncommon to hear someone being instructed to "let their conscience be their guide"... but this is not always good advice. It is possible to follow one's conscience & do the wrong thing.

Six times in his Pastoral Epistles, Paul mentions the conscience. He writes about a good conscience, a pure conscience & he says that it is possible to have one's conscience "*corrupted*" (**Titus 1:15**) or defiled. He describes it as having been "*seared with a hot iron*" (**1 Timothy 4:2**).

The writer of Hebrews speaks of a "*guilty conscience*" (**Hebrews 10:22**). Paul urged Timothy to hold "*on to faith & a good conscience*" (**1 Tim. 1:19**); and he told his young protégé that a deacon in the church should be one who keeps hold of the *deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience*" (**1 Tim. 3:9**).

If we want our conscience to be our ally in holy living, we must saturate it with God's Word & ask the Holy Spirit to convict us of sin & lead us in righteousness. (**Acts 23:1; 24:16; Romans 2:15; 9:1; 2 Corinthians 1:12; Hebrews 10:22; 13:18; 1 Peter 2:19; 3:16, 21**).

So "*stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist*".

Next week ... The Breastplate of Righteousness.

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