Putting on the Belt of Truth

Ephesians 6:13-14

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Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness...

The Armor of God

- Called "The armor of light" (Rom. 13:12)
- Only Christ can defeat the devil, and this is why He has come (1 John 3:8).
- The armor is Jesus Christ Himself.
- Other relevant passages: Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:1-10; or Ephesians 4:24.
- Eph. 6:10-20 sees this in the context of spiritual warfare.

Truth is essential

- Truth is essential to make wise decisions in life, especially in our spiritual life.
- In battle warriors must know the truth about their battle.
- The enemy will constantly try to disrupt communication.
- Satan seeks to disrupt God's communication to us, to isolate, confuse, deceive, and to blind.

We stand upon the truth of God

- Faith rests upon the truth of God.
- "Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, <u>in which you stand</u>, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain" (1 Cor. 15:1-2).
- We are able to stand against the devil because we stand upon God's truth.

1. Truth and the Devil

- "That ancient serpent called the devil who leads the whole world astray" (Rev. 12:9)
- "I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin" (John 8:34).
- Satan enslaves through deception.
- "Credit cards" or "debt cards"?

- "Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "<u>Did God</u> <u>actually say</u>, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"
- He questioned the words of God.

- "And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, <u>neither shall you touch it</u>, lest you die."
- She added to the words of God. (Prov. 30:5-6)

- "But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
- Denied the words of God.

- "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate."
- "For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world." (1 John 2:16)

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In Temptation

- "But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death" (James 1:14-15).
- "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Cor. 10:13)

2. Truth and the Christian

- "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:16-17).
- "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).
- Albert Barnes said, "A man who has no consistent views of truth, is just the man for the adversary successfully to assail."

The Soldier's Belt

- The belt pulled everything together and held it in place.
- The belt gave added strength to his torso.
- The belt was where he carried his weapons.
- The belt was where he wore his medals.
- All that we become in Christ will be directly connected to how greatly we stand upon the truth of God.

Standing on the truth in temptation

- That you are not saved? John 3:16
- That your sins are not really forgiven? Romans 8:1
- That God has forgotten you? Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5
- That you are powerless? I John 4:4
- The lust of the eyes and of the flesh? Matt.
 6:25-33
- The pride of life? Pride leads to envy and fear: John 21:21-22

Jacob and the Angel

- Jacob had wrestled with his twin brother Esau in the womb.
- Jacob had wrestled with everyone his whole life.
- He wrestled with an angel.
- He only found victory when he quit wrestling and began to cling.

What do these men have in common?

- Bill Bright Founder of Campus Crusade for Christ
- **Dawson Trotman** Founder of the Navigators
- Jim Rayburn Founder of YoungLife
- Richard Halvorson chairman of World Vision for 20 years
- Ronald Reagan who became the 40th President of the United States
- Billy Graham

Henrietta Mears

- Poor health and eyesight.
- Taught chemistry in public schools in Minneapolis for many years. And Sunday School to teenagers.
- At 37 years old she took a sabbatical to Los Angeles.
- Became Christian Education director in First Presbyterian Church Hollywood.



If you stand upon the truth of God you can touch the whole world