

## The Armour of God The Belt of Truth.

Ephesians 6 : 10- 18. 10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12For 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. 13Therefore put on the full armour 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. 14Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18And 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.

Armour is something that needs to be put on. God has provided us with the right armour to stand against Satan and his armies. But the putting on of the armour is up to the will of the individual believer. Graham Riley will be covering this principle of putting on and putting off during our fourth study. The challenge to the church is that many believers do not know ;

- 1/. What they need to be protected from.
- 2/. What they are trusting in to protect them.
- 3/. How to protect themselves.
- 4/. Or even that they need protection in the first place.

### 1/. The Armour is for protection against an invisible spiritual enemy.

Ephesians 6: 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.

Any soldier engaged in battle would be insane to believe that they could survive for any significant length of time on the battle field without being hurt, wounded or even killed if they weren't wearing the proper battle dress.

1 Peter 5 : 8 AMP. 8Be self-controlled (well balanced, good tempered, sober minded, vigilant and cautious at all times) and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion ( a lion in fierce hunger) looking for someone to ( seize upon and ) devour.

Peter, having been a victim of Satans vicious and merciless attacks (through his denial period) describes Satan in detail according to his nature. Peter knew the pain of being caught by satan's demons while not wearing the armour of God.

### 2/. What are we trusting in to protect us during battle?

It is the Armour of God. Or more specifically, "Gods" armour. Lets look at three important thoughts concerning the Armour.

#### 2a. It's designed and purpose built.

This Armour has been designed, produced and distributed by The Almighty God Himself. It is perfect in every way. Faultless in its design and purpose.

#### 2b. It must be used according the to manufacturers instructions.

If it is being used in accordance with the manufacturers instructions, then it will never cease to do what it has been designed. to do. That is to withstand any and every attack that the most powerful demon, even satan himself could ever form against any child of God. **Isaiah 54:17** says, **No weapon formed against you will prosper**, when you are wearing the right armour.



## 2c. Each part of the armour has its own specific application and purpose.

This Spiritual armour in Ephesians 6 has been likened to the natural armour designed to protect different parts of the body. By looking at the part of the body each piece is meant to cover, we can get a better idea of what the Armour is, what it protects and why.

## 3/. Starting with The Belt of Truth.

The Soldiers belt is more than your average trouser support. It was designed to protect the soldier by covering from the waist, over the hips, the reproductive area and down to the upper thighs.

The Greek word for waist or loins is "Osphus". Pronounced Os-foos. The meaning externally is, the hip, or internally the procreative power. ( That is the reproductive area ).

**Question :** In your opinion, how grounded or persuaded do you think we are in our true and real identity as new creations in Christ?

If we link the description of the armour with the area it covers to the context of protection against the enemies attacks, we can get more of an idea of what the armour is that we need to be wearing. So let's look at what this part of the body represents.

## 3a. Lets first look at The Hip and Thighs

The hip and thighs in scripture represents a persons **natural strength of ability and strength of identity.**

Judges 15 : 8-11. And he smote them **hip and thigh with a great slaughter.** Now the Philistines went up, encamped in Judah, and deployed themselves against Lehi. 10 And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" So they answered, "We have come up to arrest Samson, to do to him as he has done to us." 11 Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us? What is this you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so I have done to them."

### Strength.

**hip and thigh with a great slaughter.** This is the description of how Sampson defeated the Philistines. The term was used to describe the utter overpowering, disabling and stripping of their strength. A vicious and complete defeat.

### Identity.

**"Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us?"** The Israelites had an identity crisis in their own eyes. They were meant to be the head according to Gods word, not the philistines. Samson new who he was and what he could do and therefor attacked the Phillistines' in both their natural strength of ability, the hip, and identity, the thigh.

### Jacob wrestles with an angel.

Genesis 32 : 25-28 When the man ( refered to in Hosea 12:3-5 as an angel of the lord ) saw that he could not overpower him, **he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched** as he wrestled with the man. And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" 27 So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." 28 And He said, **"Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel;** for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Jacob was someone who got his own way through deception or deceit. He was heavily reliant upon his own human abilities to get ahead in life. Here Jacobs hip was damaged leaving him with a permanent limp. This event was the turning point of Jacobs relationship with God.

Having been struck by God and left with a limp, God then changes Jacobs name from Jacob meaning supplanter, i.e deceiver, manipulator, to Israel meaning "The prince with God". Or "Contends with God"

This limp represents the effect of being touched, broken by God in the area of natural human strength of will power and brought to a place of reliance and dependance upon God for our strength. Strength to sit and walk.



### **Strength.**

he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched

God changed his source of strength of ability. Now he had to truly rely on and lean on God.

### **Identity.**

“Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel;

God changed his source of strength of identity. He had to see himself and confess his new found identity in God. Prince with God.

The belt of Truth is what provides and protects our strength and identity in God.

### **3b. Thigh. The strongest muscle in the human body.**

Revelation 19 : 11-16. 11I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. 12His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron sceptre."He himself treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

### **Christs name was written on His thigh.**

Sitting down involves the use of the Hips and Thighs. Christ sat down in complete Victory and absolute Strength, power and authority, at the Fathers right hand and is also seen here seated, riding on a white horse. Both seated positions signifying Christs Identity, His absolute strength, rule and authority. We are also informed that we have been seated with Him. Look up Ephesians 1:15-23

We are only able to sit in this power and identity as we BELIEVE THE TRUTH, of WHO WE ARE and WHERE WE ARE in Christ. We are to sit in complete rest in the finished victorious work of Christ on the cross.

Our true spiritual strength comes from knowing we are seated in Christ, in His finished work. It is from this position that we are able to make a stand and walk. All involving the use of the hips and thighs.

**Question : Are we trusting in God for our strength? Or are we trying to do things in our own strength?**

There is nothing more uncomfortable than walking around with your trousers so loose that if you didn't hang on to them they would drop down to your ankles and gather around your feet. They would leave you not only with the difficult task of trying to walk without falling on your face, but also with the incredible embarrassment of standing there half naked with every one around you mocking and ridiculing you because you can not walk properly and you will be trying to cover yourself up unsuccessfully.

Many Christians think that they can go through life like that. They hold on to God's Word loosely. They use their own strength to try to keep their trousers up lest they should be found naked and embarrassed. The word of God doesn't appear to be a part of their life. When it comes to living according to God's word, they seem to be found lacking and often suffer embarrassment at Satans hand because of its lack of usage.

Three of the many names for Satan are "Liar, deceiver" and "Murderer".

Satan attacks the Christian in the area of identity, authority and power. Satan tries to undermine **THE TRUTH of who we are in Christ, and Where we are in Christ in relation to the Power and Authority we have to minister in His name.** If he can hide these truths from us or cause us to doubt their validity, he can rob us of our confidence, strength and power over him.



#### 4/. Christs Identity and Authority challenged.

Jesus Himself was challenged on who He was and the authority that He had.

**The following verse show Truth and lies battling for control.**

JOHN 8 : 12-13. 12 ( TRUTH ) When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." 13 ( LIE ) The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid." 14 Jesus answered, ( TRUTH )"Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, **for I KNOW where I came from and where I am going.**

Here Jesus is being challenged on His validity. We must never let the opinions of others determine the validity of who we are and what we do. Jesus knew who He was and what He was called to do.

John 8: 39. ( TRUTH ) "If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did. 40 As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you **the truth that I heard from God.** Abraham did not do such things. 41 You are doing the things your own father does."

Whenever you start to share what God has given you, you will always be attacked by Satan for it. He can't stand the truth being told.

John 8 : 44.( TRUTH )You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. 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.

Satan can't help but lie. He lies all the time. His intent is to bring about our ultimate death for he is also a murderer.

John 8: 48. The Jews answered him, ( LIE ) "**Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?"**

Here Jesus is challenged on both points of who He was and where is authority and power comes from. Jesus is being enticed to partner with their belief, to doubt His own true identity which in turn, would nullify the faith and power He needed to minister Gods life to others,

Question : Have you ever been told that you are "off your head" for believing something from the bible? Have you ever been told you can't be a Christian because of the way you act or talk?

The more we hold to the seeds of truth in who and where we are in Christ, the more Gods power is released through us.

The more we allow the seeds of doubt to remain and grow in us, the more we prevent Gods power being released through us.

John 8: 52 - 53 : 52 At this the Jews exclaimed, ( LIE )"Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death. 53( CHALLENGE )Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. ( CHALLENGE ) Who do you think you are?" Again the battle to challenge Jesus on who He was and the power He possessed.

John 8: 58 : 59. 58.( TRUTH ) "**I tell you the truth,**" Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" 59( MURDERER ) At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

Here we see Jesus stating boldly the truth of who He was. This final bold statement causes satan to try to kill Him but Jesus is divinely protected. When we are bold and refuse to move from our position of faith, no weapon formed against us will prosper. We must never refuse to believe who we are in Christ and what we can do with the power God has given us over satan and this world.



## 5/. The Armour of God is in The book of Ephesians.

The Book itself contains the very truths of what that armour is.

**Ephesians 1 vs 4** . He chose us before the creation of the world. We have been chosen by God. We belong to Him by His choice.

**vs 5** . He predestined us to be adopted as His sons.

He planned our lives to bring us into His family. We are God's children. We are members of His family.

**vs 13-14**. He's marked us with a seal, the Holy Spirit. The guarantee of His blessing on our life. God's stamp of ownership, promise and approval is on our lives. God has marked us for blessing.

**Ephesians 2 : 6-7**. God has raised us up and seated us in Christ Jesus, above all principalities and powers , above all the power of the enemy so that God could reveal in us just how gracious and wonderful He is. God has given us authority over all of satans kingdom and power. There is nothing that satan can throw at us that we can not overcome or destroy. Satan hates it that we are more powerful than him.

**Ephesians 3 : 20**. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

He is at work in us in ways which are beyond our imagination.

## 6/. The reproductive area.

The ability to both conceive and create. The ability to plant seed in others and nurture seed in ourselves that will produce fruit after its own kind. In the spirit there is neither male nor female, but all are one in Christ. Therefore, spiritually, we can both conceive and create. Our inner most being receives seed and sows seed.

### 6a. Seed sown Into ourselves.

The Hebrew word for stomach is more accurately translated as womb. The place where life is conceived and nurtured. This word is meant to grow within us and produce fruit in our lives.

**Prov 18:20-21**. A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; From the produce of his lips he shall be filled. 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

We are able to plant seed within ourselves as we confess Gods word and pray in the Spirit and also plant seed in others lives as we speak Gods word to them.

**1 Corinthians 14:4**. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

It is the seed of the Word of God, the Truth that brings prosperity and success into our lives.

**Joshua 1 : 8-9**. 8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

It is the Truth that produces Holiness and spiritual fruit in our lives.

**1 Peter 1 : 22-23**. 22Now 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. 23For you have been born again, not of perishable **seed**, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring **word of God**.

**Vs 22**Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers.



**6b. It is the Truth that produces spiritual children. The Word of God in us when when sown into other peoples hearts produces new birth.**

Vs 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable **seed**, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring **word of God**.

The Word of God is our seed. It is the truth that will set us free and equip us to set others free. The level of effectiveness that we will have in our ministry will be determined by the level of truth that we have stored up in us. We can't sow seed that we don't carry.

**Satan the thief.** Satan is also know as a thief. He has come to steel the Word from us. Jesus referred to evil spirits as the birds of the air that come to steel the seed that the farmer has sown.

Ephesians 4 : 14-16. 14 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. 15 Instead, **speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up** into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 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.**

The Belt of Truth is there to protect us in the area of ministry as we move in AUTHORITY, POWER, STRENGTH and FRUITFULNESS, all of which comes from knowing THE TRUTH about our IDENTITY AND POSITION in Christ.

The place of WHERE WE ARE IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM and WHAT WE ARE IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM is the first place of attack by satan. If he can undermine the Truth that we are above him in terms of authority as Children of God, then he will seek to overcome us. If he can weaken our stance on what we are in terms of ministry, then he will seek to hinder or even stop us from being effective in God's kingdom. Every one of us has been called by God, equipped by God, empowered by God, and sent by God to do a job. A job that has been specially prepared for us to do and no one else. Don't let satan rob you of your destiny. Hold onto the truth, tighten up your belt and make your stand.

