

**Series: Standing Firm
“Armed with the Belt of Truth”
Ephesians 6:14**

Big Idea – We need the belt of truthfulness as the first piece of armor.

Review previous verses’ truths about how to stand against the Devil.

Look in your Bibles at Ephesians 6:10 - 13

1. We can only be strong in God’s power – vs. 10
2. We must put on all of God’s armor to defend against Satan’s attacks.
The Tricks of the devil
3. We are not battling human beings – we are in a spiritual warfare with spirit beings. The Troops of the devil.
4. We can stand strong with all of God’s armor on.

Satan opposes everything God does:

1. Jesus reveals the truth – John 1:17 “...grace and truth came through Jesus Christ
Satan conceals it – John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4
2. Jesus gives life – John 5:24; 14:6
Satan destroys life – John 8:44; Hebrews 2:14
3. Jesus produces spiritual fruit in your life – Galatians 5:22, 23
Satan’s fruit is fleshly – Galatians 5:19-21
4. Jesus tests to mature us – James 1:2-4
Satan tempts to destroy us – 1 Peter 5:8
5. Jesus sets us free – John 8:31
Satan makes us slaves – 2 Timothy 2:26
6. Jesus defends us – 1 John 2:1
Satan accuses us – Revelation 12:10

The good news is that we are assured the victory over Satan if we will put on the armor of God, all of it, and stand firm, resisting him.

Paul was familiar with Roman soldiers because he was chained to many of them during his house arrest in Rome. Using the imagery of a Roman soldier he describes the believers' armor.

1. Why was a Roman soldier's belt important?

Soldiers wore big tunics which hung down loosely over their bodies. To keep it from flapping in the breeze and tripping him up, the soldier tied a belt around his waist and tucked the four corners of the tunic into it for mobility and flexibility.

The belt also held all the other weapons like the sword – in a few weeks we'll look at the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God

2. Knowing the content of truth is the first meaning of "belt of truth"

This refers to the Word of God, what God has revealed to us in the Bible.

Jesus said, "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

"Sanctify them through Your truth, Your word is truth" John 17

Jesus used the truth against Satan when Satan misquoted scriptures to Him in the temptation in the wilderness in Matthew 4.

Satan likes to twist the scriptures to suit his deceptions. – example Galatians 3:28 "...neither male nor female" – misused to promote the transgender lie/confusion

Satan's "wiles" (v.11) and "cunning craftiness" (Eph.4:14) involves false teaching

All false religion and false teaching come from Satan and his demons.

1 Timothy 4:1 "Now the Holy Spirit clearly says that in the later times some people will stop believing the faith. They will follow lying spirits and teachings of demons."

1 Corinthians 10:20 “I say that what is sacrificed to idols is offered to demons, not to God. And I do not want you to share anything with demons.”

Jesus called Satan a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44), so Satan comes at us with lies and we must know the truth of God to stand against him. But this is not the main thought here – that’s covered by “the sword of the Spirit”

In Luke 12:35 Jesus speaks of “girding up your loins” which is what this was. It’s a symbol of readiness or preparedness to move out.

In Exodus 12:11 God told the Israelites to have “their loins girded, shoes on and staff in hand” indicating they were ready to leave at a moment’s notice, to move out in flight or in battle.

St Paul in 2 Timothy 2:4 said a good soldier doesn’t let himself get all tangled up in the everyday issues of life, he must cut the cord with civilian life and be always ready.

3. Our commitment to the truth is the primary meaning

We need to get serious about it, like the runner who dresses as lightly as possible to run and win the race.

Hebrews 12:1 “We have around us many people whose lives tell us what faith means. So let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up and run with endurance the race God has set before us.”

What is commitment?

1. Having a heart for the battle, no matter the cost – 2 Timothy 2:3 “endure hardness”
2. Having the desire to win – 1 Corinthians 9:24 “run to receive the prize”
3. Yielding ourselves to God as a living sacrifice – Romans 12:1, 2
4. Abounding in love, knowledge and discernment – Philippians 1:9-11

Philippians 1:9-11 This is my prayer for you: that your love will grow more and more; that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love; that you will see the difference between good and bad and will choose the good; that you will be pure and without wrong for the coming of Christ; that you will do many good things with the help of Christ to bring glory and praise to God.

