

Dan19 – **The Spiritual Battle – Pt 5 – Eph 6:14**
The Armor – Truth

Well – this is our FIFTH Msg on the Spiritual Battle - & Today we are getting to the Scripture that Most people START WITH

THANK YOU for your patience - As we have REPEATEDLY Laid the Foundation for the Vs's we are going to Get to Today

& Tho we have BELABORED the Foundation for this series We're going to do just a Little review Again today

So Let's Pray & Get to it, ok?

ok – Here is the reminder –

**Our BATTLE – is NOT against flesh & blood – Meaning PEOPLE
Our Enemy is NOT that person – or PEOPLE**

Our TRUE Enemy – are the spiritual powers that are constantly trying to influence us - - often THRU other PEOPLE

In order to Get US to Follow Satan's PLAN for our Lives instead of God's PLAN

& Far, Far, too often – we are consumed with fighting our Circumstances - & Fighting with PEOPLE

When Our TRUE Battle is NOT Even in the REALM of Circumstances & People

But is INSTEAD – IN the Spiritual Realm

Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

**The REAL BATTLE is actually IN the Spiritual Realm
Our TRUE Battle – Is a Spiritual One**

So - IF our True Battle is a Spiritual One – WHY are we constantly using FLESHLY, HUMAN WEAPONS to FIGHT IT?

Because - we THINK we are Fighting the Real Battle – when we're actually only Fighting the EFFECTS (Symptoms) of the Real Battle

**We are consumed with the EFFECTS of the Spiritual Battle
& (for the most part) we are IGNORING the True CAUSE**

**& because we are focused on Fighting the EFFECTS –
& NOT the CAUSE – We continue to do Battle – IN OUR FLESH**

We use Human approaches – Human Logic – We use Our own Reasoning & Understanding - All of these are from OUR FLESH

**& so we are Fighting Primarily the EFFECTS of the Battle –
We are Primarily using Our FLESH to Fight the Effects . . .**

**& then we wonder why we never seem
to be Walking IN VICTORY in this Spiritual Battle**

**& Not only do we often Fight from the Wrong Realm –
but we often fight from the Wrong POSITION**

**As we Fight the EFFECTS of the Spiritual Battle - in the Flesh –
we tend to see ourselves Fighting to ACHIEVE Victory**

**But as we've said (over & over) – In the REAL Battle
(That is IN the Spiritual Realm) . . .**

**We are NOT Fighting FOR Victory (or to Achieve Victory)
We are Fighting FROM a POSITION of Victory**

**Our Total & Complete Victory has Already BEEN WON
by Jesus Christ – on our behalf**

**We are now only called by God – to STAND FIRM in the Victory
that Jesus has ALREADY WON for us**

**Your Spiritual Enemy as BEEN DISARMED
He doesn't have any Bullets in his gun**

**But if he can keep you consumed with Fighting
in this Fleshly, Temporal, Circumstantial World**

Then he can still BEAT YOU - by Deception & Manipulation

**Influencing your Mind – Thru Deception
In order to Influence your Life - To Destruction**

Which is WHY this key section in Eph Ch 6 STARTS WITH

Ephesians 6:10 (NLT)

10 . . . Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

**Your Victory is Already WON in Jesus Christ
ALL you have to DO – to Stand in that Victory**

**ALL you Have to do is Be Strong IN the Lord
& in HIS Mighty Power!**

& here's a little GREEK Lesson for you

That Phrase "BE STRONG" *in the Lord*

**Is in the PASSIVE sense –
Meaning it is Something DONE TO YOU**

The word is translated literally – To BE MADE Strong (*to be enabled*)

Even the STRENGTH – to BE STRONG in the Lord – is NOT YOURS

**The ONLY Thing that is YOURS – Is the CHOICE
to either STAND in the Lord's Victory
or FALL to the Enemy's Decption**

**So - HOW do we Stand Strong in the Lord
& In His Mighty Power ??**

The ANSWER is in the Next Vs – (*it always is*)

**Ephesians 6:11 says – in order to Stand Strong - (NLT)
11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm
against all strategies of the devil.**

THAT'S IT – We have ARRIVED at the ARMOR !!

**I KNOW We've been REPEATING The Background Truths
I KNOW We've said a NUMBER of these Things over & over**

***But (again) - It's because I really, really,
want you to GET IT – I Really Do***

**I want you to understand WHY
Putting On ALL the Spiritual Armor**

**DETERMINES whether you will STAND in the Victory of Christ –
Or easily FALL to your spiritual enemy**

So – Here's WHAT we KNOW so far

**WE KNOW there is a Spiritual Battle – IN the Spiritual Realm –
That EFFECTS the Physical Realm**

**WE KNOW the Enemy's goal is to bring destruction into our lives
by Influencing our Minds - & thereby our Actions**

**WE KNOW that Jesus Christ has already won
the Total Victory on our behalf**

**WE KNOW that to LIVE in That Victory - ALL we have to do is
Stand Strong in the Lord - & in the Power of His Might**

**& NOW WE KNOW – that in order to DO THAT
all we have to do is PUT ON All of God's Armor**

***So that we will be able to stand firm
against all the strategies of the devil***

THAT'S IT !!

& Now that we Know ALL of that BACKGROUND

There are TWO Things left to LEARN in this series:

#1) WHAT IS God's Armor?

#2) HOW do we Put it on?

& THAT is how we're going to FINISH the series - with:

#1) WHAT IS God's Armor

#2) HOW do we put it on

**& AS we go thru Each Article of the Armor – we're going to
Try to see BOTH - - WHAT is it - & HOW to Put it on**

Does that make Sense?

Alright – Let's Get to it

Ephesians 6:13 (NLT)

13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

**Look closely – WHY are we commanded
to PUT ON Every Piece of God's Armor**

**WHY? – So that you will be able to RESIST the enemy
*In The Time Of Evil***

Notice the Words - in the time of evil

**this is most probably a Reference to ANY TIME the Enemy
sets his sights on Influencing You toward destruction**

**If you Will PUT ON Every Piece of God's Armor –
You WILL be able to Resist the enemy Schemes of Destruction**

**& Then - WHAT will happen at the END of the battle? (end of v.13)
*Then after the battle you will still be standing firm***

**THAT is what we WANT – To REMAIN Standing Firm
in the Victory that Jesus Christ has WON for us – Right?**

Alright as we finally come to the Armor – let me just say

**The Armor is Divided into TWO Basic “Sets of Three”
Separated by the VERBS used to Describe them**

Let’s read thru the first 3 articles of Armor - & I’ll explain

Ephesians 6:14–15 (NLT)

14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and (which implies – putting on) the body armor of God’s righteousness.

15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.

The First VERB – that sets out the first HALF of the Armor

Is (basically) the VERB - “PUT ON”:

PUT ON – Truth – v.14

PUT ON – Righteousness – v.14

PUT ON – Peace – v.15

**These 1st three Articles of the Armor – Have to do with
How we are CLOTHED – What we are to PUT ON in our lives**

& I want you to hear right up front – & very clearly

EACH of the pieces of Armor – ARE Jesus Christ !!

Jesus **IS our TRUTH**

Jesus **IS our RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Jesus **IS our PEACE**

ALL Six Articles of the Armor – ARE the Person of Jesus Christ

The **1st Three** – are **Characteristics** of **Jesus Christ**
that we are to be **IMMERSED** in

We are to be SO IMMERSED in Jesus Christ

AS our TRUTH

AS our RIGHTEOUSNESS

AS our PEACE . . .

That we are **CLOTHED IN** these **Characteristics** of His

We must – **So PUT ON** Jesus in these areas

That our lives are actually being Transformed more & more
INTO His Image - **In THESE particular areas**

The Concept of “**Putting On**” Christ – Being **CLOTHED** in Christ
is a **FAMILIAR** One in the **N.T.**

Just one example - Romans 13:14 (ESV)

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh . . .

Which is saying (in general)
the exact same thing - Eph 6 is saying

The only thing we have that's Victorious over your spiritual enemy –
is the **LIFE** of Jesus Christ in us

So WE MUST CLOTHE OURSELVES
with these Character Traits of Jesus Christ

Make Sense?

Now - I'm NOT Too big on using the Roman Soldier illustration

Because IF I do:

You'll think TOO MUCH about Dressing Like a Roman Soldier
& NOT Enough About Putting On Jesus Christ

But Paul IS Using a Roman Soldier as an illustration
(prob because he's CHAINED to one) – So I'll use it a little

Alright – Armor Article NUMBER ONE –
Because it is the Foundation of all the other Armor

THE BELT OF TRUTH

Ephesians 6:14 (NLT)

14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth . . .

Here's why TRUTH is referred to as a BELT

Because the Belt was the Fundamental Piece of the Armor –
- Everything else (in some way) RELIED on the Belt

& so it is in OUR battle - - -
TRUTH is the Fundamental Piece of our ARMOR

& ALL the rest of our Armor –
will Somehow - RELY on our BELT OF TRUTH

& right here - at our First & Most Fundamental Piece of Armor

We Have a HUGE problem !

**Let me try to explain HOW Christians get TAKEN OUT so Easily
in this First & Most Crucial Area of the ARMOR**

**WHAT spiritual power presently RULES
the WORLD SYSTEM we live in? (Satan)**

**& WHAT has the World System (in our culture)
been convincing us of - for the past 40+ years . . . ?**

The world system (in our culture) - is more & more convincing us

That there is

NO ABSOLUTE Truth

NO OBJECTIVE truth

NO INDEPENDENT Truth

But instead – We are INFLUENCED to Buy Into the LIE - that

Truth is SUBJECTIVE

Truth is PERSONAL

Truth is INDIVIDUAL

**We – Christians – Right here
in this Bible Believing Church – Are Believing**

That Truth is NOT IN-Dependent of what we THINK or FEEL

**Instead – we are convinced – that Truth can be BASED
on what WE think - & on what WE feel**

**& the Biggest Problem is that –
We DON'T SEE this as a SPIRITUAL BATTLE**

If the Enemy can deceive us into Turning from God's TRUE Truth
Then he has got us defeated – before we even begin

We can't even take the rest of the Armor OFF the SHELF –
Because we don't have anything to HANG it ON

Because ALL of the Armor for our Spiritual Battle
HANGS on the Belt of TRUTH in our Lives

& WHY do we LOVE – having our OWN TRUTH So Much?

Because it FEEDS our SIN Nature - of SELF-FOCUS
MY Way – MY Truth – MY Self

INDIVIDUAL / PERSONAL Truth Fits our Sin-Nature SO WELL
It's an Obvious FIRST Target for the Enemy

Because if he can TAKE OUT our BELT OF TRUTH
then we have NOTHING to HANG our Spiritual Armor on

THAT - is how important the Belt of TRUTH is in this Battle

The Devil is a LIAR – The Bible says in

John 8:44 (NLT)

44 . . . [the devil] has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Your Enemy – HATES the TRUTH - & he works very hard
to Influence YOU – With His OWN LIES

He is the Father of ALL - NON-Truth
BUT . . . He is subtle . . . so subtle

The devil was SUBTLE:

**When he influenced EVE & ADAM in the Garden
& When he influenced JUDAS to Betray Christ**

& he will BE SUBTLE when he tries to influence you

He will FEED you – RELATIVE Truth . . .

**Which means – Truth that is TRUE to YOU –
WHETHER it is Truly True – or NOT**

**If he can FEED YOU ‘Relative Truth’
then he can easily begin to INFLUENCE your Mind . . .
to get you to Follow His Will instead of God’s Will**

**HOW Many Times – Have You & I – As Bible Believing Christians
been INFLUENCED to believe our OWN TRUTH – EVEN when it is
CONTRARY to what God’s Truth clearly says**

**Then – Christians – CONVINCED of their OWN TRUTH –
Even When it is clearly Contrary to God’s Truth . . .**

**They leave their Marriage – they Abandon their Kids –
They turn to drugs – or alcohol – or porn – or other addictions**

**Because they’ve “worked out” their OWN Truth – in their OWN
Minds
& in their OWN mind – Their Actions are OKAY**

**& they are CLUELESS – Even to the Idea – that they
are getting DECIMATED in the Spiritual Battle**

**I see Christians ALL the Time – Come up with their OWN Truth –
Even if it's contrary to the Bible**

**& then fully expect God to continue BLESSING them –
& even get ANGRY at Him if he doesn't**

**For you to even BEGIN the Spiritual Battle
there must be ABSOLUTE Truth in your Life**

Not an OPINION

Not an IDEA

But an Absolute BELT of Truth

John 14:6 (NLT)

6 Jesus [said], "I am the way, the truth, and the life . . .

Guys – Please hear me

If we are going to Stand Firm in the Victory we have in Christ . . .

**We are going to need an Immovable STANDARD of TRUTH
ON WHICH to hang our armor for the battle**

& can I just tell you please

**YOUR Opinion, YOUR Ideas, YOUR Truth
is NOT the Immovable Standard of Truth**

GOD is the ONLY Immovable Standard of Truth

In the Life of Jesus Christ

In the Truth of God's Written Word

In the Power of the Holy Spirit

& if we WOULD actually PUT ON (Clothe Ourselves)

With GOD'S Immovable Standard of Truth in our lives . . .

If we would Truly Receive God's Truth – without ADJUSTING it
to Suit our own personal "Truth Tastes"

then we would begin to Be Victorious in SO MANY of our Spiritual
Battles – just from this first foundational piece of the armor

& let me close with THIS

It is NOT just the NEGATIVE Truths – Meaning:
DON'T Do this & DON'T Do That

But it is the POSITIVE Truths as well – Meaning:

THIS is What God says about Me

THIS is Who God says I am

THIS is What God has Done for me

Because the Devil BEGAN his spiritual battle with mankind

by Making Adam & Eve believe
that God had NOT Done ENOUGH for them

Think about it – The Enemy got Adam & Eve
to DOUBT God's Blessings in their Lives

He got them to DOUBT God's Promises
He got them to DOUBT that God was 100% Good to them

& your enemy is still getting YOU to DOUBT God's Promise
& to DOUBT that God is Good to you

There are over 3,000 PROMISES from God in the Bible

& your enemy is Constantly trying
to get you to DOUBT those Promises

But 2 Corinthians 1:20 says (NLT)

20 For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

The TRUTH is – that IN CHRIST –

ALL of God's Promises Have been (& are being) Fulfilled

& if we will PUT ON – THAT Belt of Truth in our Lives

then we will start giving the Enemy a RUN for his money

Ephesians 1:3 (NLT)

3 . . . [God] has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

The Promises and Blessings of God

are ABSOLUTE Truths - we MUST Hold ON TO

When the enemy starts sending in

Doubts & Questions - & Self Truth - & Relative Truth

**We need to learn to STAND FIRM
in the Immovable Standard of TRUTH of God . . .**

**in BOTH – WHO God says we ARE
& HOW God calls us to Live**

STAND FIRM – In God’s BELT of TRUTH

2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (ESV)

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

**The weapons of your Warfare are NOT of the Flesh
They have DIVINE Power to DESTROY Strongholds - of the MIND**

**IN CHRIST – You can Destroy every Argument
that is Raised against the Knowledge of God**

**But taking EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE
to the Obedience of Christ**

NEXT WEEK – We’ll start by talking about HOW we can do this

Let’s Pray