#### **Loins Girt with Truth**

Joshua Strelecki, Pastor-Teacher

Ephesians / Truth; Armor; Spiritual Warfare; Loins / Ephesians 6:10-20

# **Scripture Reading**

### Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to guench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

### Introduction

Throughout history, God has demonstrated His unmatched power and faithfulness in the battles faced by His people. From Samson's superhuman strength to Moses leading Israel through the parted Red Sea, from Gideon's

victory over thousands with only 300 men to David's triumph over Goliath with a single stone, the Lord has shown that victory belongs to Him. Whether through miraculous plagues, angelic intervention, or the faith and prayers of His people, God has proven time and again that He is the ultimate warrior who fights for His own. By those incredible accounts, we are reminded that the same God who delivered His people then is the One who equips us today with His armor to stand firm in the spiritual battles we face.

Samson - 4000

Moses - 100,000

Gideon - 135,000

David - 150,000

Hezekiah - 185,000

Joshua - 250,000

Abijah - 500,000

Asa - 1,000,000

# Using the means of -

- Plagues, The Red Sea, Hailstones, Superhuman strength, Walls tumbling down, Sun Standing Still, Angelic intervention, Chariots of Fire, Unsupposed Battle Strategies
- Faith, Prayer, Reliance
- God fight choir sing praises
- or, the impossible stone slung to slay a giant

### Hebrews 11

- Victory in the fight
  - · "who through faith subdued kingdoms"
  - "out of weakness made strong"
  - "waxed valiant in fight"
  - "turned to flight the armies of aliens"
- Victory in defeat
  - "others tortured, not accepting deliverance better resurrection"
  - "others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonments, they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth."
    - "of whom the world was not worthy"
- These "did signify" beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.
  - The sufferings have taken place and the glory
  - We live after the sufferings and the glory now, yet to come
  - We fight to point to suffering or glory, to Christ and resurrection but we fight in view of its victory

- We quiver not in fear as the army of Israel before Goliath, but we fight
  after the victory of the true David having slain the giant we awake and
  arise, shout, and pursue become not the spoiled but spoil, overcome,
  and stand amidst the wrestling. (1 Sam. 17:52)
- We fight against our own sinful inclinations that are no longer our master. We fight against the god of this world, his spirit that worketh in unbelievers, the principalities and powers in high places and all their spiritual wickedness understanding our "anointing, which is, in the Lord" we shine in word and deed in darkness, being in the evil day we overcome with good, the world struck with blindness we walk with enlightened eyes, and when we come to each stronghold of every vain imagination exalted against the knowledge of God, we walk around it perfectly with the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, cast it down, subdue it, and bring it into captivity.
- We get the victory fighting in mind, prayer, meditation and in yielding to the victory in Christ. We get the victory in faith, trust, thanksgiving, and in praise!
- And with armor forged, and armor proved fit and suitable for us. Thus we don
  not carnal armor proved unworthy made and sold by the enemy, but we don
  the armor of the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, the only Wise God to whom
  be honor and glory for ever and ever. AMEN!

## **Purpose Statement**

I want to encourage you to stand firm in the spiritual battles by girding your loins with the foundational truth of God's Word, which empowers you to overcome deception, live righteously, and walk boldly in victory through Christ.

#### 1. Loins Girt About with Truth

- 1. with Truth
- 2. Loins Girt About

### Sermon

<u>Ephesians 6:14</u> "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;"

#### 1. "with truth"

- 1. Broad Perspective to Precise
  - "What is truth?" <u>John 18:38</u> "Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all."
  - Psalm 25:5 "Lead me in **thy truth**, and teach me: For thou art the God of my salvation; On thee do I wait all the day."
  - Psalm 25:10 "All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth Unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies."
  - Psalm 33:4 "For the word of the Lord is right; And all his works are done in truth."
  - Psalm 43:3 "O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; Let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles."
  - Psalm 117:2 "For his merciful kindness is great toward us: And the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord."
- 2. The Opposite of Truth
  - Deception, error, deceit, lie, darkness

- John 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."
- <u>2 Corinthians 4:4</u> "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

#### 3. Contention

- <u>1 Timothy 6:5</u> "Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."
- <u>2 Timothy 2:25</u> "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;"
- <u>2 Timothy 3:7</u> "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."
- <u>2 Timothy 3:8</u> "Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith."
- 2 Timothy 4:4 "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."
- <u>Titus 1:14</u> "Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth."

#### 4. Godhead

1. God - <u>Isaiah 65:16</u> "That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; And he that sweareth in the earth shall swear

by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten, And because they are hid from mine eyes."

- <u>Jeremiah 4:2</u> "And thou shalt swear, The Lord liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory."
- <u>Deuteronomy 32:4</u> "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: For all his ways are judgment: A God of truth and without iniquity, Just and right is he."
- 2. Christ <u>John 1:14</u> "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."
  - John 1:17 "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."
- 3. Spirit <u>John 16:13</u> "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."
  - John 17:17 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."
- 1. "having your loins girt about with truth"
  - 1. "your loins" girt about holds everything else up and together
    - i. Physical Loins Spiritual Loins
    - ii. The Vitality of the Loins
      - 1. Life

 Genesis 35:11 "And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;"

#### Generative Power

- Exodus 28:42 "And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach:"
- Behemoth <u>Job 40:16</u> "Lo now, his strength is in his loins, And his force is in the navel of his belly."

#### 2. Death

Deuteronomy 33:11 "Bless, Lord, his substance, And accept the
work of his hands: Smite through the loins of them that rise
against him, And of them that hate him, that they rise not again."

## 2. Spiritual Loins

- Job 38:3 "Gird up now thy loins like a man; For I will demand of thee, and answer thou me."
- 1 Cor. 16 quit ye like men
- <u>1 Peter 1:13</u> "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;"
- Where the Spirit works Rom. 8

#### 3. Loins without Truth

- Psalm 66:11 "Thou broughtest us into the net; Thou laidst affliction upon our loins."
- Fear Psalm 69:23 "Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not;
   And make their loins continually to shake."
  - Jeremiah 1:17 "Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them."
- Strength <u>Proverbs 31:17</u> "She girdeth her loins with strength, And strengtheneth her arms."
  - Nahum 2:1 "He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face:
     Keep the munition, watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily."
- Righteousness <u>Isaiah 11:5</u> "And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, And faithfulness the girdle of his reins."
- Pain <u>Isaiah 21:3</u> "Therefore are my loins filled with pain: Pangs have taken hold upon me, as the pangs of a woman that travaileth: I was bowed down at the hearing of it; I was dismayed at the seeing of it."
- Cleaves <u>Jeremiah 13:11</u> "For as the girdle cleaveth to the loins of a man, so have I caused to cleave unto me the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah, saith the Lord; that they might be unto me for a people, and for a name, and for a praise, and for a glory: but they would not hear."

# 4. Truth in Ephesians

- Ephesians 1:13 "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,"
- Ephesians 4:15 "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"
- Ephesians 4:21 "If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:"
- Ephesians 4:25 "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another."
- Ephesians 5:9 "(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)"

### Conclusion

As believers, we are called to stand firm in the spiritual battle, equipped with the armor of God, beginning with our loins girt about with truth. Truth is the foundation that holds everything together, both in our physical and spiritual lives. It is the unchanging Word of God, the light that leads us, and the strength that sustains us in the face of deception, fear, and spiritual warfare. Just as the loins are vital for physical strength and stability, the truth of God is essential for spiritual vitality. Let us embrace the truth found in Christ, who is full of grace and truth, and allow the Spirit of truth to guide us in all things, sanctifying us and preparing us for the battles we face.

Therefore, let us gird up the loins of our minds, being sober and steadfast, and hope in the grace of Christ. In a world filled with lies, deceit, and spiritual darkness, we must cling to the truth, speaking it in love and living it out in righteousness. Let the truth of God be the girdle that strengthens us, fortifies our faith, and enables us to stand firm against the wiles of the devil. As we fight, let us remember that the victory has already been won through Christ, our true

David, who has defeated the giant. With this assurance, we can fight boldly, overcome evil with good, and shine as lights in the darkness, bringing glory to the God of truth.