

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 11 – The Armor of God & Spiritual Warfare

Lesson 41 - The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-17 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 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.*

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

What is the nature of each piece of armor?

Each piece of the armor of God is a revelation and it is only put on by you entering into the manifestation or the experience of that revelation.

It is not put on by you ritualistically going through the motions of putting on the pieces. Ritualistic things don't accomplish anything; it's spiritual things that accomplish something. Each piece of the armor of God is a supernatural revelation and is only put on by you entering into the experience and the manifestation of that revelation.

Hosea 4:6a *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*

When we lack the revelation knowledge we're not able to be fully armed; we're not able to be fully equipped to stand up against the assaults of the devil.

Each piece of the armor is both an offensive and a defensive weapon.

You can never win a battle, you can never win a war from simply a defensive posture. One of the reasons we lost in the Vietnam War is because we never went in there to win. We were only there to keep the North Vietnamese from taking over South Vietnam. We were only there to hold the line; we weren't there to win. You can not win a battle, you can not win a war simply from a defensive posture. You can only win from an offensive posture.

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 11 – Lesson 41

We learn this in every aspect of life. You learn this in sports. Nobody wins a sports game simply by having the best defense, they have to have a good offense. With the best defense you can hold the other team from scoring any points, but if you don't score any yourself, you're still not going to win. The best you can do is to tie.

In our fighting with the enemy, we not only have to have defensive weapons, which we do need to have, but we also need to have offense weapons. We need to learn how to use the weapons offensively to go after the devil. You are going to have much greater victory if you start launching assaults against the devil instead of waiting for the devil to come at you and then fighting and resisting him.

Some of you are so beat down that you are living in such a defensive posture all the time, waiting for the devil to attack and hoping he doesn't hit you again. You are hoping to get through this month without a major problem, through this week without a major problem. You're sitting in a defensive posture and the devil is just taking little shots at you all day long. Maybe your defenses are good and you block most of them, but you're spending all your time and energy in a defensive posture. You're not advancing any further; you're not taking any ground. It's time to begin to change your approach and stop living in defensive mode and to take on an offensive mode. Take the battle to the devil's camp.

Luke 10:19 *Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

Matthew 16:18a-19 *and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*

We always view the forces of hell coming against us. Have you ever seen marching gates? No. The gates are still. We need to go to the gates of hell. We kick down the gates of hell; we destroy the gates of hell. They stand, we bust through them; they shall not prevail against us. He was talking offensively not defensively.

These weapons of warfare that God has given us are not only for defensive warfare, but they're for offensive warfare on the two battle fronts. There are two battle fronts. There's the battle front in the mind and the battle front in the spiritual atmosphere. We need to fight on those two fronts simultaneously.

Belt of Truth - Gird your loins with truth, as it say in King James Version. Loins is actually a better word there because the loins speak of the reproductive part of your body. It speaks of your reproductive parts. He's dealing with the spiritual here. He's dealing with the part that has the ability to create.

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 11 – Lesson 41

1 Peter 1:13 *Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

Gird up the loins of your mind. What it speaks of symbolically is the creative part of the body; the brain, the mind. Your mind is the part that creates your imagination. It is in that imagination where your thoughts run, where you develop common sense. It's in that part that he is saying to gird up the loins of your mind with truth. He's saying gird up the loins, gird up your imagination.

Many people's minds are being so wrecked with so many things. Their imaginations are out of control. God has given us a weapon, it's not only a defensive weapon. It's also an offensive weapon; a weapon to shore up, to gird up, to strengthen and fortify your mind with truth.

Psalms 33:4 *For the word of the LORD is right,
And all His work is done in truth.*

All the work of God is done in truth.

Psalms 91:4 *He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.*

The truth of God shall be your shield, shall be your fortress, shall be your supernatural protection.

Psalms 117:2 *For His merciful kindness is great toward us,
And the truth of the LORD endures forever.
Praise the LORD!*

All God's work is done in truth, and that truth is a shield to you. It is a fortress to you, and that truth will endure forever.

Recent statistics have come out about the young generation where the mass majority, including Christians, do not believe in what we call absolute truth. They do not believe that there are things that are absolutely true. They believe truth is relative. If truth is relative it means if it's true to you, then it is true. They believe in relative truth. In fact that's the fundamental philosophy behind liberalism in America; that if it's the truth to you and as long as it seems right to you, as long as it feels right to you, then it's alright. There could be nothing further from the truth. That's insane.

You don't want to live in a world where truth is relative, where each person gets to come up with their own truth. What if you go into a place and all of a sudden they decide their truth is they get to kill anybody they want? Do you want to live a society like that? What if they decide their truth

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 11 – Lesson 41

is they can do all kinds of vile things to children? Do you want to live in a society like that? You don't want to live in a society like that. They don't want to really recognize that there are things period that are absolutely right and there are things that are absolutely wrong. There is truth and there are lies. This generation has been trained up to not believe that there is absolute truth, and it only determines and depends on how you think about it.

God says truth will protect you, truth will be your shield, truth will be your buckler. Truth is going to last forever. You must gird up your mind with truth so you can war against the devil and stand. But if you don't believe that there's absolute truth, if you don't embrace truth, you cannot come under the power and protection of truth.

God told me, "Son, I have not given all my people eyes to see the way. I've given my prophets eyes to see. My people better come to realize and recognize that I've given My prophets eyes to see, and that they begin to trust in those things." Each of us are uniquely anointed for specific purposes, and He has given His prophets eyes to see thing that other people will not see. But because we believe in personal truth and not absolute truth, we all approach situations and rely on our own ability to see and don't listen to His prophets.

We trust the prophet if he comes to us and says we will have a worldwide ministry, or you're going to be blessed. We don't want to hear the voice of the prophetic when it comes down to not seeing a movie, not watching a television program, or not reading a book. We don't see so we don't agree with it, because we think truth is relative. We think it's arbitrary, but God says He will do nothing without first revealing His secrets to His servants the prophets. (Amos 3:7) God reveals things to His prophets; He reveals mysteries and secrets. He reveals things for the prophet to declare out and speak out truth. When we don't embrace truth, and we don't allow truth to shore up our minds, we become vulnerable to the assaults and the attacks of the enemy.

What is one of the great attacks of the enemy against truth in these end-times?

One of the great attacks and strategies of the enemy in these end times, is he's coming to deceive the people of God.

It will happen because the people of God, not only the people of the world, but the people of God have forsaken the Holy Law and absolute truth.

Proverbs 16:6 *In mercy and truth*

Atonement is provided for iniquity;

And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.

There's a power in truth; truth is power.

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 11 – Lesson 41

John 16:13 *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

Truth is not abstract. Truth is not left up to your opinion. It's either truth, or it's not truth. It doesn't matter what is the truth to you. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth.

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

What does Jesus say about truth?

Jesus says He is truth itself. Jesus didn't just speak truth; Jesus is truth. Outside of Christ there is no truth.

Each piece of the armor is a revelation and is only put on by you entering into the experience and manifestation of that revelation. Each piece of the armor is a revelation of truth; it's a revelation of Christ. Christ, and Him alone, is truth. Which means your opinions mean nothing. Your opinion, my opinion, means absolutely nothing. They are worthless. It doesn't matter what I think, it doesn't matter what I feel, it doesn't matter what my opinion is.

Everybody wants to have their opinion. We're in a day where we have exhausted the opinions of people who don't know anything; it's called a blog. We have exhausted individual opinions and we've put them all on an equal plain. We think everyone has a right to their opinion. No you don't. The only thing that's right is truth. You can have the opinion that you can stand in front of a Mac truck going a hundred miles an hour and when it hits you it won't hurt. It doesn't matter what you think, cause the truth is when that truck hits you at a hundred miles an hour, you're going to be splattered. That's the truth whether you believe it or not.

This is where we wrestle so much in church and have church splits. We need to stop our pride and our arrogance over our own opinions. We need to humble ourselves before God and say, "God not my way, but Your way. Not my will, but Your will. I don't know what's right God. You show me what's right. You reveal to me truth and only truth."

The Bible says we shall know the truth and the truth will make us free. (John 8:32) Only the truth you know and walk in will make you free. It's only the truth you know by revelation, and the truth you embrace and yield to. Then it rises up as a shield to you, gives you power, then forgives you of your sin, then washes iniquity from you. It's only that power of the truth that will make you free, that will deliver you from the power of the enemy and give you the power to stand up. It's only that truth that will support all the rest of the armament of God, because without that belt of truth nothing else will stand. It's only that truth that will truly deliver you in your mind.

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 11 – Lesson 41

John 17:17 *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

God's Word is truth. Whatever God has spoken is absolute. Heaven and earth will pass away, but not one dot and not one tittle of His Word will pass away. His Word will endure forever. Truth is forever; it endures forever.

For Further Study:

1 Samuel 12:24 *Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.*

Romans 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness*