



Go for God!

SPIRITUAL WARFARE (Part 2)
“Gird Your Waist with TRUTH!”

EPHESIANS 6:10-17

> **PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD AND STANDFAST!**

(v12) **Satan’s army is described in rankings:**

(1) **Principalities** - Are demons that have the **oversight of nations**.

(2) **Powers** - Are the privates who are the demons wanting to **possess human beings**. (*unclean spirits, evil spirits*)

(3) **Rulers of darkness of this world** - Are those demons promoting **Satan’s corruption, deception, evil deeds, carnality, immoralities, lusts, greed, etc.**

(4) **Spiritual wickedness in high places** - Are demons in the heavenlies who have charge of **religion**.

> **Third - (v13) PUT ON the ARMOR OF GOD and STAND AGAINST THE ENEMY!**

- **PROTECTION #1 - (v14) “Having girded your waist with TRUTH!”**

~ **What is the opposite of TRUTH:**

- **A LIE** - Any statement or act designed to deceive another person. The motivation for most lying is a desire either to hurt the one against whom the lie is directed (**Gen 3:1-13; Rom 3:13**) or to protect oneself, usually out of fear or pride (**Matt 26:69-75; Acts 5:1-11**). Lying is emphatically condemned in the Bible (**Ex 20:16; Eph 4:25**). It is wrong because it is contrary to the nature of God (**Titus 1:2; Heb 6:18**) and because it shows a person is not in touch with reality (**Rom 1:25; 1 John 1:6**). On the other hand, it is possible to be truthful with the intention of hurting another person. The Bible teaches believers to be truthful in love (**Eph 4:25**). (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

- **To DECEIVE** - (1) **To lead into error**; to cause to believe what is false or disbelieve what is true; to impose upon; to mislead; to cheat; to disappoint; to delude; to ensnare. (2 **Tim 3:13 - Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.**) (2) **To beguile**; to amuse, so as to divert the attention; to while away; to take away as if by deception. (3) **To deprive by fraud or stealth**; to defraud. (from Webster’s Dictionary)

- **Whereas TRUTH is a moral and personal characteristic of God:**

- The word TRUTH is found 223 times in the Bible, as our God is *"the God of truth"* (Isa 65:16). The psalmist declared, *"Your law is truth"* (119:142), *"all Your commandments are truth"* (119:151), and *"the entirety of Your word is truth"* (119:160). Because of His perfect nature and will, God has to speak and act in truth; He cannot lie (1 Sam 15:29; Heb 6:18; James 1:17-18).

- Jesus is the Word of God who became flesh, "the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). All Jesus said was true, because He told the truth which He heard from God (John 8:40). He promised His disciples that He would send *"the Spirit of truth"* (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13) - a *Helper* who would abide in Christians forever (John 14:16), *testify* of Jesus (John 15:26), *guide Christians into all truth* (John 16:13), and *glorify* Jesus (John 16:14). God is truth; the Spirit is truth; and Jesus is truth! Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* (John 14:6).

- Jesus and the revelation which the Spirit of truth gave through His apostles are the final, ultimate revelation and definition of truth about God, man, redemption, history, and the world. *"The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ"* (John 1:17).

- In 1 Timothy 3:15 we read, *I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

> Jesus said in John 4:23-24 - *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*"

John 8:31-32 - *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

John 17:14-19 - *I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.*

John 18:37 - *Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."*

> **Paul warns of deception in the church in 2 Corinthians Ch. 11:**

Beware: Each deceiver will use Biblical names, terms and Scriptural references. They isogete the scriptures (that is to impose one's own belief into the bible, instead of doing a proper exegesis (let the passage contextually speak for itself). They start with their own pre-text to propound their context. We must study the Bible in its complete context to determine the proof text.

(v1-2) Paul's goal is to present an uncorrupted, chaste bride, that is the church to Christ.

(v3) How did the Serpent (Satan) deceive Eve in the Garden of Eden? Genesis 3:1-6 - Observe Satan's strategy of deception: First, to question God's Word (*has God said?*); second, then Satan denies God's Word (*you shall not surely die*); thirdly, then he substitutes his own lie (*you shall be as gods*).

- One commentator writes, "All teachings originating from deceiving spirits will weaken the authority of the Scriptures; distort the teaching in the Scriptures; add to the Scriptures the thoughts of men; or put the Scriptures entirely aside. Good men can be deceived, and Satan needs good men and women to float his lies under the guise of truth."

- We have been warned ahead of time:

(1) By Jesus – Matthew 24:4-5; 11-14;

(2) By Paul – Acts 20:26-33;

(3) By Peter – 2 Peter 2:1-3;

(4) By John - 1 John 4:1-4;

(5) The last days church Laodicea – Revelation 3:14-22.

(v4) **SATAN'S THREE DECEPTIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH:**

#1 – DECEIVERS WILL PREACH ANOTHER JESUS!

- The TRUE JESUS is recognized through Scriptures in His DEITY:

John 1:1-3 - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

John 1:14 - *And the Word became 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 5:18-19 - *Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.*

John 10:30-33 - *I and My Father are one.*" Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

#2 – DECEIVERS WILL CAUSE YOU TO RECEIVE A DIFFERENT SPIRIT!

- 1 Timothy 4:1-4 - *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.*

#3 – DECEIVERS WILL PREACH A DIFFERENT GOSPEL!

- The gospel must not be compromised – 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 1:6-9.

- Salvation is found at the cross through the atoning blood of Christ – 1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 3:25; 5:9; Eph. 1:7; 2:13; Rev. 1:5.

- Do not fall prey to the gospel of greed or covetousness 2 Peter 2:1-3.

> All believers must have their loins girt about with truth:

- PREPARE - 2 Timothy 2:15-16 - *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

2 Peter 3:17-18 - *You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

- PROTECT - Titus 1:9 - *holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.*

- PROVIDE – 1 Timothy 3:12 – 4:7 (Preach the Word!)

> The truth for all believers is:

I am alive with Christ. (Ephesians 2:5)

I am a new creature in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

It is not I who live, but Christ lives in me. (Galatians 2:20)

I am greatly loved by God. (Romans 1:7; Ephesians 2:4; Colossians 3:12)

I can do all things through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:13)

I am God's workmanship, created in Christ for good works. (Ephesians 2:10)

I am more than a conqueror through Him who loves me. (Romans 8:37)