

Call of Duty Pt 4 “The Truth Shall Set you Free”

CENTRAL QUESTION:

How do we properly equip ourselves for spiritual warfare as soldiers in the army of God?

I. UNDERSTANDING OUR SPIRITUAL BATTLE

Key Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-13 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you 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, and against spiritual wickedness in high places."

The Reality of Spiritual Warfare:

- The Christian life is a battlefield, not a playground
- Most important decision: Follow after Christ, not after people or churches
- Paul wrote from prison, possibly chained to a Roman soldier
- We are fighting a supernatural enemy, not other people

Biblical Evidence of Spiritual Conflict:

- 2 Corinthians 10:4 - Weapons not carnal but mighty through God
- 1 Timothy 6:12 - Fight the good fight of faith
- 2 Timothy 2:3 - Endure hardness as a good soldier
- 2 Timothy 4:7 - I have fought the good fight

II. RECOGNIZING THE ENEMY'S TACTICS

Satan's Nature and Limitations:

- Not eternal like God (he is a created being)
- Not omnipresent (cannot be everywhere at once)
- Not all-powerful or all-knowing

- Uses a well-organized unit of demons
- Attacks at our weak spots

Satan's Tactics Against the Church:

- Revelation 12 - The Accuser
- 1 Timothy 3 - Condemnation
- 1 Peter 5 - Devouring
- Revelation 2 - Imprisonment
- 2 Timothy - Ensnaring
- 2 Corinthians - Taking advantage
- Mark 4 - Stealing the Word

The Key Truth:

Our battle is NOT against flesh and blood, other people, other churches, or other pastors.
Our battle is against the devil and spiritual forces.

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER PREPARATION

The Dressing Principle:

You must dress for what you are about to do

- Physical clothing example: Church vs. work vs. hunting
- Spiritual application: Must properly equip yourself for spiritual battle
- Without proper preparation, we cannot function effectively

Why the Belt First?

Ephesians 6:14 - "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth"

Paul mentions the belt before shield, sword, or helmet because:

- Everything else depends on the foundation of truth
- The belt holds everything else in place
- The belt carries essential weapons and supplies

- Without the belt, a soldier cannot function properly

IV. THE BELT OF TRUTH EXPLAINED

What Truth Means:

Satan is a liar, but the believer whose life is controlled by truth will defeat the father of lies.

Three Ways to Be Controlled by Truth:

1. Be truthful to God
2. Be truthful with yourself
3. Be truthful to everybody around you

The Function of the Belt:

- Holds up everything else in your spiritual armor
- Carries the sword (Word of God) in its scabbard
- Provides storage for essential supplies
- Protects vital areas from enemy attack

V. BIBLICAL EXAMPLE: DAVID AND BATHSHEBA

The Unraveling of Lies (2 Samuel 11-12):

- David stays home while his army fights
- Sees Bathsheba bathing and commits adultery
- She becomes pregnant
- David tries to cover up by bringing Uriah home
- Uriah refuses to be with his wife while soldiers suffer
- David gets Uriah drunk, but he still refuses
- David has Uriah killed in battle
- Attempts to marry Bathsheba and cover his sin

The Lesson:

Lies keep unraveling, getting more twisted and worse. Being untruthful separates us from God and destroys relationships.

VI. THE TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE

What the Devil Wants to Tell You (LIES):

- You cannot be healed
- You cannot be saved
- You cannot be delivered
- You cannot have a breakthrough
- You are not good enough for the kingdom of God
- You are not educated enough
- You cannot speak the Word
- You cannot rejoice because of what you are going through

What the TRUTH Says:

- You CAN be saved and born again
- You CAN be set free and delivered
- God made you in His image
- He sent His Son to die for you
- No matter what you have done, Christ came for you
- It is not you who does it anyway - it is the Spirit of God
- You have not sinned so bad that God cannot save you
- No chain the devil puts on you that God cannot break
- No weapon formed against you will prosper
- All things are under His feet

Biblical Examples of God's Truth:

- The woman at the well - No matter how many times married, Jesus can set you free

- The demon-possessed man - No matter how bound, Christ can deliver
- Lazarus - Even death cannot hold you
- Jesus walking on water - No storm is too great for Him to reach you

VII. LIVING AS A SOLDIER OF TRUTH

Daily Practice:

When you get up in the morning and get dressed to fight your battle, make sure you gird yourself with truth.

The Victory Principle:

- You cannot defeat the enemy by yourself
- With Christ in you, the enemy cannot defeat you
- Jesus on the inside is stronger than anything Satan can put against you
- We may lose a skirmish, but we are going to win the war

The Call:

Put on the Belt of Truth each day and stand equipped for spiritual battle, knowing Christ has already secured the victory.

KEY TAKEAWAY:

The Belt of Truth is the foundation of all spiritual armor. Without truth in our lives - truth to God, truth to ourselves, and truth to others - we cannot effectively stand against the enemy's lies and deceptions.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- Are you being truthful with God, yourself, and others in every area of your life?
- What lies has the enemy been telling you that need to be replaced with God's truth?
- How can you better equip yourself each morning with the Belt of Truth?
- In what areas do you need to stop fighting against people and start fighting against spiritual forces?

Scripture References for Further Study:

Ephesians 6:10-17 | 2 Corinthians 10:4 | 1 Timothy 6:12 | 2 Timothy 2:3 | 2 Timothy 4:7 | 1 Peter 5:8 | Revelation 12:10 | Psalm 139:7-10 | 2 Samuel 11-12 | John 8:32 | Romans 3:23 | Isaiah 54:17