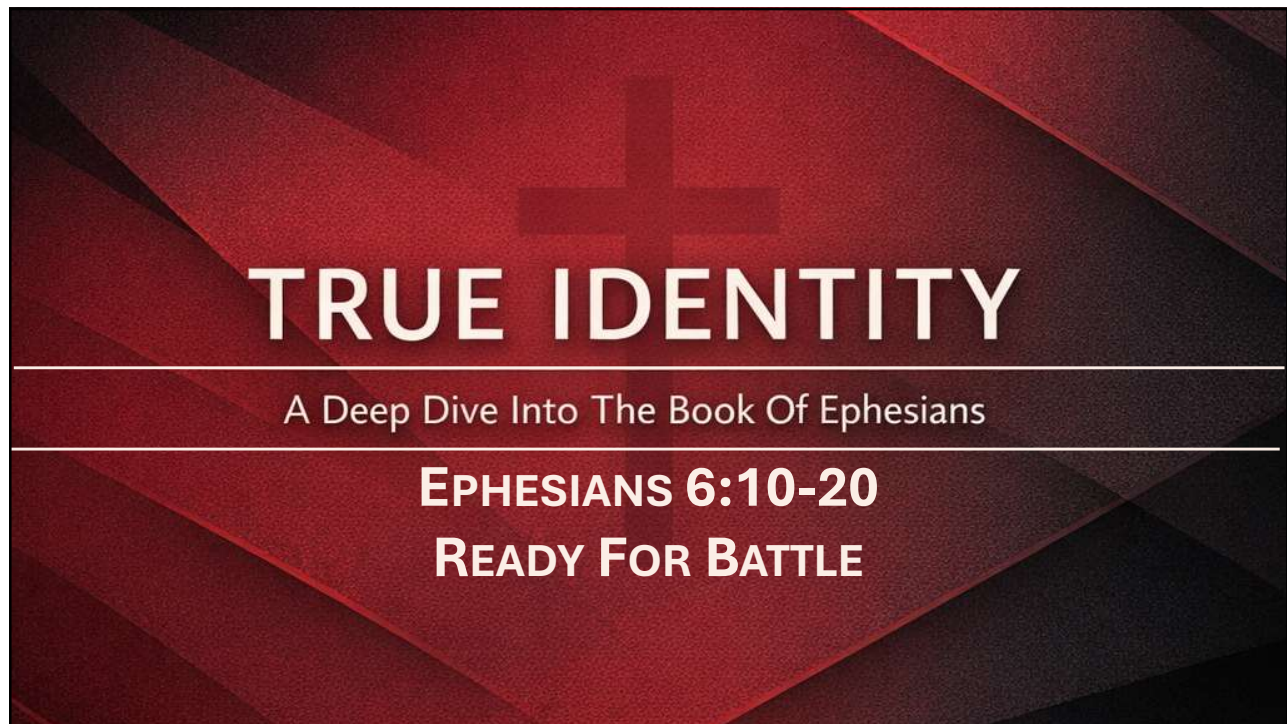
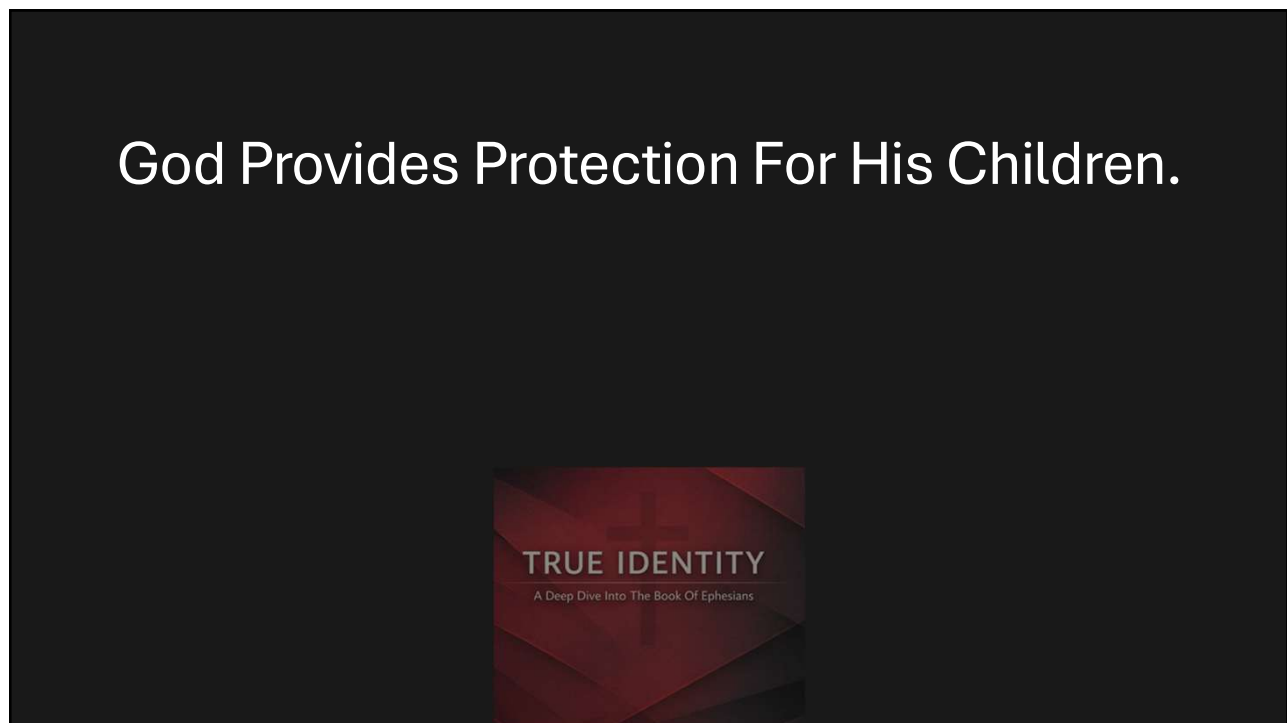




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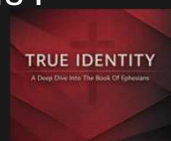
Ephesians 6:10–20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 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 firm. Stand therefore, having



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fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

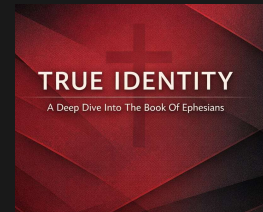


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PURPOSE

The Need Is Real

- The enemy never rest
 - Fate determined
 - Timing uncertain
- The armor is not optional equipment
 - Need to stand against the enemy
 - But, not forced
- You are not alone
 - The Holy Spirit
 - The church



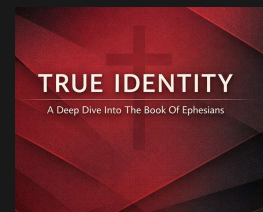
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PURPOSE

The Need Is Real

Growth During The Battle

- Dependency on God is essential
- Stay the course
- Worth the fight because of the victory
- Weapons are given to fight the enemy



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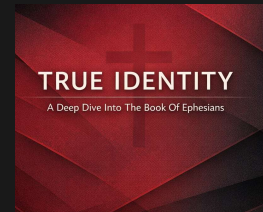
PURPOSE

The Need Is Real

Growth During The Battle

Only One

- Believers are given one weapon
- Weapon needed to stand - 1 Peter 5:8–9
Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

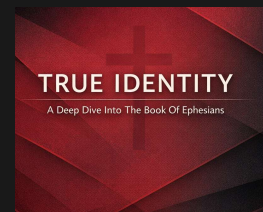


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POWER

Historically The Weapon –

- Shorter blade for close hand to hand combat
- Extremely effective when used properly
- Enemy must be close - arm's length
- Remember one of Satan's weapon – flaming darts



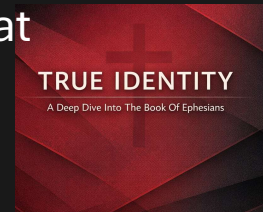
51

POWER

The Weapon – The Sword

Available for all believers

- God does not leave believers defenseless
- Demonstrated by Jesus – Matthew 4:1-11
 - Christ responded to each test with the Word
 - Satan attempted to use the Word, but misused to manipulate Christ
 - Ultimately, Christ used the Word to defeat Satan



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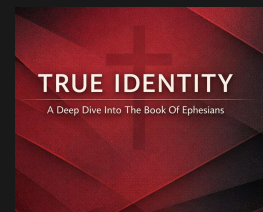
POWER

The Weapon – The Sword

Available for all believers

Not Just Any Sword

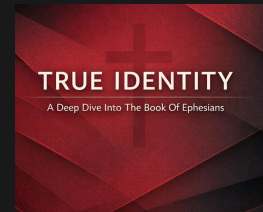
- Sword of the Spirit – word of God
- Double edged - Hebrews 4:12–13



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Hebrews 4:12–13

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.



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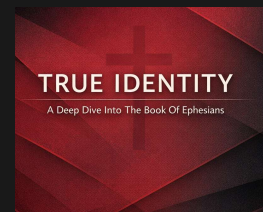
POWER

The Weapon – The Sword

Available for all believers

Not Just Any Sword

- Sword of the Spirit – word of God
- Double edged - Hebrews 4:12–13
 - Living and active
 - Discerning thoughts and intentions of the heart
- Defense against the enemy
- Personal spiritual discipline



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POWER

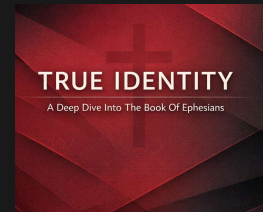
The Weapon – The Sword

Available for all believers

Not Just Any Sword

Source Directly From God – 2 Timothy 3:16–17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



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POWER

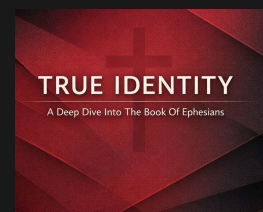
The Weapon – The Sword

Available for all believers

Not Just Any Sword

Source Directly From God – 2 Timothy 3:16–17

- All Scripture - God's character amplified
 - Breathed out by God – inspired
 - God's perfect character – inerrant
 - No need to change – infallible



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POWER

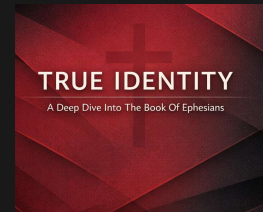
The Weapon – The Sword

Available for all believers

Not Just Any Sword

Source Directly From God – 2 Timothy 3:16–17

- All Scripture – God’s character amplified
- God’s purpose fulfilled
 - Teaching in righteousness
 - God’s will and plan revealed
 - Completely equipped to stand
 - Equipped for every good work



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POWER

The Weapon – The Sword

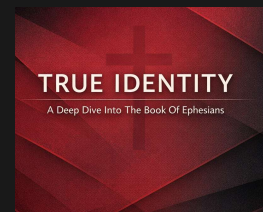
Available for all believers

Not Just Any Sword

Source Directly From God – 2 Timothy 3:16–17

God Revealed

- God’s character
- God’s redemptive plan
- God’s love

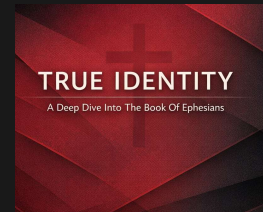


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PRACTICE

Not In Your Own Strength Or Might – Ephesians 6:10

- The same Spirit that Scripture abides in you as a believer
- Walking by the Holy Spirit – Galatians 5:25
If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
- Knowing God
- Making God known



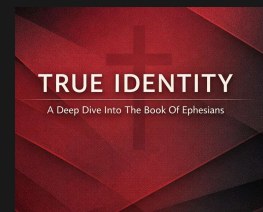
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PRACTICE

Not In Your Own Strength Or Might – Ephesians 6:10

Training Needed To Handle The Sword

- Read the Word
- Meditate on the Word
- Memorize the Word
- Study the Word
- All under the leadership of the Holy Spirit



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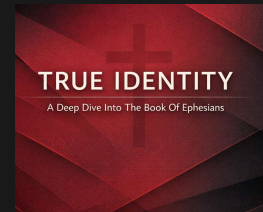
PRACTICE

Not In Your Own Strength Or Might – Ephesians 6:10

Training Needed To Handle The Sword

Always Remember

- The Word will never contradict itself
- Doctrinal truths are supported with multiple Scripture
- Culture continues to decline, but God's Word never changes
- Context is essential



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PRACTICE

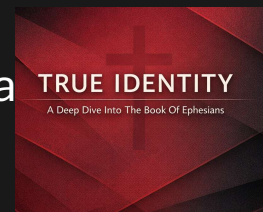
Not In Your Own Strength Or Might – Ephesians 6:10

Training Needed To Handle The Sword

Always Remember

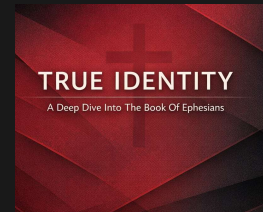
Do Not Neglect

- The Bible is not impossible to understand; however, you will always have more to learn
- Your personal time in the Bible is essential for your personal spiritual growth
- Preaching and teaching is great, but never a replacement for personal study



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ARE YOU PASSIONATE FOR GOD'S WORD?



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