



INVISIBLE POWERS AND PLACES

Lesson 5

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WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Ephesians 6:10-12** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.
- **Ephesians 1:19-20**...and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*...
- **Power:** *dunamis*: strength, might, miraculous ability
- **Strength:** *kratos*: vigorous dominion; active ability
- **Might:** *ischus*: strong ability
- DO YOU FIND IT STRANGE THAT SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS MOST OFTEN FOUGHT WITH TRUTH?

NOT OUR OWN POWER

- The power and authority of the believer are key in spiritual warfare
- **Power:** the ability to do something
- **Authority:** the right to do something
- We have these because we are in covenant with Christ
- **Ephesians 6:10-12** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. **Put on** the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.
- **Put on:** *enduo*: clothe yourself
- **1 Samuel 18:3-4** Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt.

CLOTHED WITH CHRIST

- **Galatians 3:27** For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
- Having been clothed, it is time to take up the armor; we didn't find, purchase, or earn the armor; it is a result of covenant; Using the armor is another matter entirely!
- **Ephesians 6:12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.
- **Struggle:** *pale:* wrestling; up close and personal
- The ultimate struggle isn't with people (it may seem like it is)
- **Rulers:** *arche:* elementary; from the beginning
- **Powers:** *exousia:* authorities (they receive authority)
- **World forces:** *kosmokratos:* associated with pagan gods
- **1 John 5:19** We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of the evil one*.

SATAN'S GOALS IN WARFARE

1. Keep people from being saved; he will work hard to keep people from knowing/understanding truth about Jesus
 2. Prevent believers from being fruitful in the kingdom:
 - a. destroy unity among believers/churches
 - b. entice believers to sin (omission or commission)
 - c. lead people into false teaching
- **Ephesians 6:13-14** Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH...
 - **Resist:** *anthistemi*: to stand against
 - **Stand:** *histemi*: to make a stand
 - **STAND AGAINST THE ENEMY; STAND FOR THE TRUTH**
 - **John 8:44** ...does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

TRUTH OR POWER

- Rarely will our struggle involve power; usually it will involve truth; Why? God's power is greater than Satan's power
- **Ephesians 6:10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.
- **Acts 13:6-11** When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus, who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But Saul, who was also *known as* Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time."

STRONGHOLDS OF TRUTH 1

- **TRUTH #1:** The Lord Jesus Christ is the person of truth
- **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
- **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- **1 Timothy 2:1-6** First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time.

STRONGHOLD OF TRUTH 2

- **TRUTH #2:** The Word of God is the Word of truth
- **2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.
- **James 1:18** In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.
- **1 Timothy 2:4** ...who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- Truth is always there; it isn't useful until you know about it and make a decision to accept and use it
- If you do not accept the Bible as the authority regarding what is true and what is error, you will never successfully wage spiritual warfare
- Much of the trouble in the church and the world is a departure from the Bible as infallible truth

STRONGHOLD OF TRUTH 3

- **TRUTH #3:** The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth
- **John 14:16-17** "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.
- The Holy Spirit is the author of the Word of Truth; scripture is "God breathed"
- **1 Corinthians 2:9-12** ...just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

STRONGHOLD OF TRUTH 4

- **TRUTH #4:** The church is the pillar and foundation of truth
- Every believer should be in a Bible-teaching, Christ-exalting local body of believers; such a gathering of believers is called a church
- The church universal (all believers world-wide) is made up of gatherings of local churches
- **1 Timothy 3:14-15** I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, *I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.
- **Support:** *hedraioma*: the grounding or foundation
- **Pillar:** *stulos*: stiffening post, stabilizer, something standing
- **Galatians 2:9** ...and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship...

FIRMLY BUCKLED BELT

- **You could tell if a Roman soldier was on duty by the way his belt was buckled!**
- **2 Corinthians 11:13-15** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.
- **1 Timothy 4:1-3** But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, *men* who forbid marriage *and advocate* abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

SEARING THE CONSCIENCE

- Multiple exposure to lies; conditioning; normalizing
- **1 Timothy 4:1-2 (HCSB)** Now the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared.
- **1 Timothy 4:1-2 (NASB)** But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron...
- **Conscience:** *suneidesis*: moral co-perception; perception coming from the mind and the spirit
- **Seared:** *kausteriazō*: branded
- brain – body; mind – soul; spirit – Spirit
- **Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...