

“SPIRITUAL WARFARE: THE ARMOR OF GOD – THE BELT OF TRUTH”

Acts 20:22–24 – ²²And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. ²⁴But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

I. Truth Defined

- **Truth – The STANDARD by which everything is defined, measured, and exists. It is the quality of being in accord with REALITY.**
- **TRUTH is permanent, non-circumstantial, and impartial.**
- **“TRUE” is temporary, circumstantial, contextual, and situational.**

John 17:17 – “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

Psalm 119:160 – The ENTIRETY of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

II. Two Dimensions of Truth: Inward and Outward

Ephesians 6:14a & 17 – ¹⁴Stand, therefore, having girded your waist with truth . . . ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 – For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

III. Truth's Primary Effect Is Liberation

John 8:31–32 – ³¹Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you ABIDE in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³²And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you FREE.”

- Peter Publicly After a Powerful Miracle – release from prison

Acts 5:27–29 – ²⁷And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, ²⁸saying, “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!” ²⁹But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men.”

- Peter Privately with God

Acts 10:9–16 – ⁹The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. ¹⁰Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance ¹¹and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. ¹²In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. ¹³And a voice came to him, “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” ¹⁴But Peter said, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.” ¹⁵And a voice spoke to him again the second time, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.” ¹⁶This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.

- Peter Under Peer Pressure – biggest hindrance to freedom

Galatians 2:11–14 – ¹¹Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; ¹²for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. ¹³And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that they were not straightforward

about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?"