



### WEEK 3 DAY 1

This week we will be switching gears a tad. If you have noticed, most of what we have been talking about has been dealing with “self” as the enemy. But, what changes when it is clearly a fight that Satan is behind? Thankfully, what we have already learned is crucial in this type of fight.

Every person is different, so what has been taken from the lessons so far may be slightly different. Here is what MY main punches have been and what they mean to me:

- **I know God will fight for me because I am His.**
- **Stand firm - take a look around and figure out who the real enemy is - self or Satan?**
- **Consecrate myself because God WILL do wonders! We saw that the Word of God consecrates us. So as I start to take in God’s word, I have to start calling out to Him.**

Now if we are in a fight that is originating with Satan, we need to take a look at Ephesians 6:10-12, - summarize what Paul is telling us.

Notice the word “schemes”? What does that mean in your mind?

“A plan for trouble” is what runs through my mind. A careful thought out plan. We know that God has a plan for our lives. What is it? Jeremiah 29:11.

Just because of what we have been talking about, look at Jeremiah 29:12 –13, and make a note of what we do and what God is willing to do.

That’s God’s plan for us, but what about Satan. What is his plan? (John 10:10)

In your fight “for” we have been working on the “self” part of the fight, but can you see where Satan may have his fingers in the mess?

*Day 1 continued*

More than likely, yes you can. Just like I can. In fact with my fight for purity in our house, I can see how self plays a big part. A BIG PART. But at the same time, Satan wants nothing more than to destroy us. On any level he is able to, whether it is our testimonies, our families, anything else, destruction is right up his alley.



Take a few minutes today and ask God for wisdom, (James 1:5) in seeing exactly what Satan's current scheme in your life. Write down what He reveals to you.



## WEEK 3 DAY 2

Today we are going to start with the armor of God. Our main objective is to know the pieces and what they can mean to us today. Now, just as a reminder this is not what I would call an in-depth study. There are **a lot** more to these verses than we are going to be covering. Our goal is to come out of this with more practical, hands-on knowledge than we had before. There is a great book by Kay Arthur, Lord, Is It Warfare? Teach Me To Stand that covers the armor in depth. Having said that, let's jump in!

In Ephesians 6:13 Paul says we are to put on the full armor of God so that \_\_\_\_\_ the day of evil comes, we may be able to stand our ground.

Did you notice he did not say "if"? I wish it did say "if" but it says "when". That means we can be assured that at some point we are going to have to fight.

Today read Ephesians 6:14-18 and list each piece of armor and what action you picture in your mind. I'll do the first one with you:

### Piece of Armor

### Action Picture

1. *The belt of truth buckled around my waist.      I picture that as having the truth on me, and not having to go look for it.*
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

The belt of truth is the most important part to put on daily. Why?

*Day 2 continued*

I have been pondering this today and the thing that I keep coming back to is without truth we have nothing! Also, the belt of truth is individual. If I wear Chad's belt, it won't buckle; same if he wears mine, it doesn't fit. That is why it is crucial that we have our own belt of truth to wear.

Do you know what that is going to require? It will require that we start getting some verses that are "ours". It takes time, but as God shows you a verse that speaks to you, commit it to memory. Mark it in your Bible. Let it become YOUR belt of truth.

I'm going to share a couple of mine with you. As you look them up, write what they are saying. Then I will tell you why they are buckled around my waist daily!

Deuteronomy 30:6

I have three descendents thus far, and this verse gives me permission to ask and know that God will cut out of their hearts (and mine) anything that would cause us to not love Him.

The other is a bit longer to read but well worth it, Luke 7:36-43.

I love that one, because I was a mess before Christ. May I share a secret? I was actually not a whole lot better AFTER Christ for a time. The biggest difference from the day before I received Christ and the day after was I had hope of being different. And I have hope today to be different than yesterday. You do too.



What are some verses that make up your belt of truth?

*Now, for those of you who may say, that you don't have my very own belt. **You do!** Jesus has given it to you, you just have to start unwrapping it! Look back through the verses we have used so far and see if you can start with one of those.*



**WEEK 3**  
**DAY 3**

One part of me wishes we could just somehow skip this next piece of the armor. I do much better knowing the truth than acting on the truth. The next piece of armor is all about how we act. Well, we might as well tackle it, what is it? (Ephesians 6)

Righteousness, or right living. That sums it. We could stop right here and just say live rightly. But, you already know as well as I do that this is hard. Yesterday with the belt of truth, we could see clearly, that as we start to know the truth our mind will change the way it thinks. Today is the next step, where we actually change our behavior.

Now if we are fighting with Satan, this one, right living is a doosie. Why do you think it is?

If you guessed anything having to do with obedience, you get a star! Look at each of these verses and write two key words that you see over and over:

John 14:15

John 14:21

John 14:23

John 15:9-10

All the way back in Deuteronomy 30:16 we see this same principle, “Obedience/Love”. Can we have one without the other?

No. At some point, what we are wearing, will influence our behavior whether it be truth or lies. That is a great way to tell what kind a belt you have on. How is it affecting your living?

What do you know God has said, “no more”. Are you willing to put on the breast plate of righteousness and move it out of your life. I can promise you it will be worth it!

Write out 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.

That's how I know that our obedience is going to be worth it, He has promised it! Just as a side note, notice that it is revealed to us how?

You know what that means? I am alive! I have heard this verse used to describe heaven, and of course, heaven is wonderful. However, if the Spirit of God is still revealing it to me, that means my feet are still planted here on Earth. If you are struggling with sin, add this to your belt. Make it yours!

One plus of righteous living is that others see it. Remember in 1Peter 3:1-2 when it says that we can win over our husbands? How does it say we can do that?

It says when they SEE. This also applies to our kids, families, friends and co-workers. They will see us acting differently and then when God starts showing off in our lives, they will see that too. Then they will start to see the connection between a life with God versus a life without God!



What do YOU need to change in order to make righteous living a new focus?



**WEEK 3**  
**DAY 4**

This next piece of armor is one I struggle with. It requires “feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.” I struggle with it because it is one that is harder to relate to in a practical way. I have read many a commentary and book, and if I may be so bold, I think it is one that others puzzle over also.

One view of this, can be taking the gospel to people, which is the gospel of peace. Nevertheless, since we are talking about warfare, that one doesn’t stick in my heart. One commentary said it is “protective footgear”. Not sticking there either. Not to say that any of those are wrong they just don’t stick with me.

Oh, but this one does. Being ready to fight at a moments notice, because we know the truth. We are walking in righteousness and we are at peace with God because our confessions are made! Now that one sticks with me!

So, can we see that principle in the Bible? Yes, we can in Hebrews 4:12-16. As you read through the verses, think about what we have been studying and compare them.

In the context of fighting, can you see how it would be important every day when you put your shoes on (spiritually speaking) to make sure that you are at peace with God, which comes first through Jesus, and then through confessing your sins daily?

Do you have another view on this having your feet fitted with the Gospel of peace?



Take time to make sure you have confessed to God anything that He is showing you.



What comes next as we dress in the armor?

**WEEK 3**  
**DAY 5**

Yes. It is the shield of faith. Where does faith come from? Check out Romans 10:17. So, how are we going to use our shield of faith?

We are going to start **talking** about our belt of truth, which will increase our faith and the faith of those around us. So how can we do that?

For me, I need to get better at saying God's truth in everyday conversation. Not necessarily with chapter and verse, because many people I talk to don't know God. See, God's word has power, even when the person hearing it doesn't recognize it for God's word. The Holy Spirit can use what we say to plant good seeds in people. The shield of faith not only protects us, but we can protect others with it. Because of that word "faith" I believe it is always going to involve a literally speaking of God's Word.

I have one daughter who struggles more with image than the others. She is more prone to think that she has no talent. Now I can say, "darling of course you have talent. You are talented in XYZ". Those are good words, but not powerful words.

Since I know she has accepted Christ, what I say to her is: *"Darling you have talent because Jesus Christ lives in you and He has given you a talent. Your job is to fan the flame of your gift into a raging fire!"*

That is based on 2 Timothy 1:6 and 1 Corinthians 7:7.

Are you seeing a pattern here? Our work is cut out for us! Winning this fight "for" is going to take some effort. That is why so many times we lose. It's not that we don't have the power to win, we are just unwilling to put the effort into winning!

We will look at the rest of the armor next week, but try to start wearing the ones we talked about this week, or at least try them on for size! Put on your belt - add to it! Live right - If you blow it, confess it! Start speaking what you are wearing aloud to build up your faith and the faith of those around you!

*Day 5 continued*



I really think if you have stuck with me this far, then you are willing to do the work!  
So, for the remainder of today we are going to remind ourselves that we are planning on winning because we are suppose too!

Find one verse that says something along those lines. (Victorious, much fruit, light, all would be some words you could look up in your concordance if you need a hint.) Write it out here.