

# The Battle and the Belt

## The Battle

### 1. We're in a spiritual battle between two "kingdoms."

*"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."* - Ephesians 6:12

### 2. This battle has been raging since the creation and there is no "neutral" territory.

*"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?''"* - Genesis 3:1  
*"He who is not with me is against me..."* - Luke 11:23

### 3. This battle involves every believer.

*"Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight..."* - 1 Timothy 1:18  
*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* - 2 Timothy 4:7

### 4. The battle is of utmost importance.

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power."* - Ephesians 6:10

### 5. The only hope we have is in the Lord Himself. It is His strength, His power and His armor.

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."* - Eph. 6:10,11

### 6. You are only effective when you wear all of the armour.

*"Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."* - Ephesians 6:11

### 7. You win in this battle when you stand your ground.

*"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."* - Ephesians 6:13

## The Battleground

- It is your mind (or your "heart").

*"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."* - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."* - Romans 12:2



## The Armour of God

- It is six distinct pieces. (Seven when you add the concept of prayer.)
- It was provided when you became a believer. 3 + 3 + 1
- It is one outfit. You wear every piece every day.

## The Belt of Truth

*"Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist"* - Ephesians 6:14

- The word "truth" is the Greek word ἀλήθεια (aletheia) which means truth as opposed to a lie; God's truth (His Word); an attitude of truth; or the lack of hypocrisy.
- Why do we start with Truth? Because Satan begins with "lies" (this word means cunning or deceit!)  
*"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."* - Ephesians 6:11
- Satan's schemes often come in the form of questions!  
*"The tempter came to Him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.'"* - Matthew 4:3
- To defeat these schemes, we need to be able to discern the truth; and we must live without hypocrisy.

## The Purpose of the Belt

1. It goes on first! It is fundamental.
2. It pulls everything together. It is freedom!
3. It provides connecting points for other armour. It is foundational.
4. It covers vital organs. It is protecting!

## Application

1. Pray daily for the wisdom to discern the truth from lies.
2. In every situation, seek to live without hypocrisy and deceit.

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- You are only effective when you wear \_\_\_\_\_ of the armour.  
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