FOUNDATIONS, THE ARMOR OF GOD: LESSON #2

Intro. Last week was an overview of our series.

- This week we’re going to begin looking at the individual pieces of armor we have been given for spiritual warfare

1. Each piece is vitally important

Ephesians 6:11-13 (NKJV)
11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
13 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.

- We are told twice to put on the whole armor of God

2. I want to clarify again that we are in a very real war
  a. It is a “spiritual” war but that doesn’t mean “imaginary”
  b. The spiritual war we’re involved in is as real if not more so than any other war that has been fought

- When Jesus came, died, and rose again He gave us everything we need to win every battle we face

Luke 10:19 (NKJV)
19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Ephesians 6:11 (AMP)
Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.
• If we are wearing every piece of armor, we will be able to stand up against every attack of the enemy

I. THE ________________

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV)
Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth...

• The soldier’s belt was one of the most important pieces of armor

A. THIS IS WHAT ________________ MANY OF THE OTHER PIECES OF WEAPONRY

ex. The Roman soldier’s belt was the piece of armor that held many of the other pieces together. His sword hung in a scabbard that was clipped to the side of his belt. His breastplate was attached in some places to his belt.

The armor of a Roman soldier would literally come apart, piece by piece, if he didn’t have the belt around his waist.

B. WE ARE ________________ BY TRUTH

• In the following verses Jesus tells us exactly what the truth that protects us is

John 17:14-17 (NKJV)
14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.
15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.
16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.
17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

1. The belt of truth is ________________
   a. His written word protects us
b. We’re going to talk about speaking His word when we deal with the sword of the Spirit in an upcoming lesson

2. Notice in John 17:15, Jesus prayer wasn’t that we would be taken out of the world but that we would be _______________ the evil one

a. This verse is bracketed by statements of how we would be guarded and protected from the enemy

v. 14, “I have given them Your word…”
v. 17 “Sanctify them (set them apart) by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

Psalm 119:160 (NKJV)
*The entirety of Your word is truth*, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

b. Again, it’s the truth of God’s word that brings us protection

John 8:31-32 (NKJV)
31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.
32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Know the truth and the truth will make you free.

3. We live by ___________ instead of ___________

John 8:44 (NKJV)
You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

a. The devil lies about God; who He is and what He’s like
b. He lies about us and who we are and what we can become

- So how do we know who God is and what He is like?
- How do we know who we are in Christ and what we can become?
- There’s only one reliable source to find the truth and it’s in God’s word

- It’s no mistake that the belt of truth is the first piece of armor listed

4. The truth of God’s word keeps ________________
   for us

- I cannot overemphasize the importance of God’s written word in our lives
- It not only instructs us, it protects us

ex. Can you imagine how vulnerable we would be to the lies of the devil if we didn’t have God’s word to counter them?

  “God doesn’t love you.” John 3:16, Jer. 31:3 “everlasting love”

  “God doesn’t care.” 1Peter 5:7 “…He cares for you.”

  “You will always be sick.” 1 Peter 2:24 “…by His stripes you were healed.”

  “You’ll never get over being afraid, fearful, or anxious.” 2Tim. 1:7
  “God has not given the spirit of fear but of power…”

  These and so many other lies of the devil are effectively stuck down by the truth of God’s word.

- So as we go about our daily lives, today and every day, we need to keep our “belt of truth” fully attached and operative in every situation we face. We should let the Bible be the governor, the law, the ruler, the “final say-so” in our lives!
II. THE ____________________________

Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV)
Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness.

- The following quote is from Rick Renner’s book, “Sparking Gems from the Greek”

“The breastplate was an important article of defense that protected the front torso and all of the vital organs from a mortal wound. It was often composed of a solid piece of metal, but it could also contain numerous small pieces that were sewn to cloth or leather that overlapped much like the scales of a fish. These scales could number as many as 700 to 1,000 per “coat.”

- I’ve also included a quotation from Perry Stone’s book, “There’s a Crack in Your Armor: Key Strategies to Stay Protected and Win Your Spiritual Battles”

“This breastplate was placed over the shoulders to protect both the front and back of the soldier. The bottom of the breastplate was tied to the belt. Notice that righteousness must be tied to the belt of truth, as there is no righteousness unless we receive the Word of God, which is the word of truth (John 17:17). I have often heard that the soldier’s back was the only area that had no protection on the Roman breastplate. After research, and after purchasing an entire replica of the Roman armor for a sermon illustration, I discovered this was incorrect. Thin metal sheets also formed a protective covering around the back rib cage, and the entire breastplate was tied together by leather straps in the back. These individual and layered metal strips gave freedom of movement to the soldier in times of battle. The spiritual application is that righteousness does not mean to be rigid or self-righteous or legalistic, but righteousness is a joyful, heart-filled expression of a life redeemed by God. His righteousness covering your heart brings freedom of moment to enjoy God’s blessings and freedom of movement to wage a good warfare.”

A. RIGHTEOUSNESS IS SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN _______
• Every believer has been given the righteousness of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)
For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

• When we ask Jesus into our hearts we are born again and God begins to see us as righteous as Jesus (I know it’s kind of hard for us to get our minds around that one!)
• Theologians call it “imputed righteousness”
• It means when we get saved God imputes or puts Jesus’ righteousness in us

1. The breastplate of righteousness protects us from the _______________________

• No matter how “good” we are Satan will find something to accuse us of

Revelation 12:10-11 (NKJV)
10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.
11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

a. Jesus’ blood purchased our ability to stand righteous before God
b. When the devil tries to accuse us our only effective defense is the blood of Jesus

2. Our righteousness isn’t based on our behavior but on the _______________________

Ephesians 6:13-14 (NKJV)
13 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.
14 **Stand therefore**, having girded your waist with truth, **having put on the breastplate of righteousness**.

   a. If we try to stand on our own goodness or righteousness the devil will always find something to accuse us of and knock us down

   • **Righteousness is something that has been imputed or “put” in us**

**B. RIGHTEOUSNESS IS ALSO SOMETHING WE ___________**

**Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV)**

13 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.

14 **Stand therefore**, having girded your waist with truth, **having put on the breastplate of righteousness**.

   • **We put on the breastplate by doing two things**

1. **We put on the breastplate by __________________**

   a. We recognize the righteousness we have in Christ

   b. This is something we need to remind ourselves of and especially remind the devil of

   ex.  “God’s word says, I am the righteousness of God in Christ. I have what the word says I have. I am who the word says I am.”

   Remember the belt of truth holds many of the other pieces of the armor together. This is true of the breastplate of righteousness.

   **We will be confident of our righteousness through recognition of the truth of God’s word. 2Cor. 5:21, “righteousness of God in Him.”**

2. **We put on the breastplate of righteousness by __________________**

**Ephesians 4:17-24 (NKJV)**

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,
18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;
19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.
20 But you have not so learned Christ,
21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:
22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,
23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

a. Righteousness brings a practical demonstration in our lives
b. Righteousness means we begin to “put off” those old ways and begin to “put on” new ones

PRAYER AND CONFESSION:
Thank You, Jesus, for providing protection from the lies of the devil by the belt of truth, Your word. I allow Your word to be the final say so in my life. I am able to put on the breastplate of righteousness because of Your finished work. I am the righteousness of God through Christ. I am able to practice living a righteous life through the power of Your grace in my life, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM LESSON #2
I. THE __(BELT OF TRUTH)

A. THIS IS WHAT __(HELD TOGETHER) MANY OF THE OTHER PIECES OF WEAPONRY

B. WE ARE __(KEPT OR PROTECTED) BY TRUTH

1. The belt of truth is __(God’s word)
2. Notice in John 17:15, Jesus prayer wasn’t that we would be taken out of the world but that we would be __(kept from) the evil one

3. We live by __(truth) instead of __(lies)

4. The truth of God’s word keeps ____ (everything ___ together) for us

II. THE __(BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS)

A. RIGHTEOUSNESS IS SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN _(PUT ___ ON US)

1. The breastplate of righteousness protects us from the __(accusations of the devil)

2. Our righteousness isn’t based on our behavior but on the __(righteousness of Christ)

B. RIGHTEOUSNESS IS ALSO SOMETHING WE __(PUT ON)

1. We put on the breastplate by __(recognition)

2. We put on the breastplate of righteousness by __(practice)