

Tighten Up the Belt - Lord, Is It Warfare - Lesson 8

The Evil Triad	Our Position and Problem	Our Battle
<p>World</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - when Adam and Eve sinned - the kingdoms of the world were handed over to Satan - World became our enemy - World wants us to conform into its mold (Ro 12:2) - We need to be transformed by the renewing of our mind through the Word of God <p>Flesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - before we were saved we walked according to the flesh (Eph 2:1-3) - When the Holy Spirit takes up residence within us - the battle begins - Gal 5:16 - walk by the Spirit so we will not carry out the desire of the flesh - Flesh is flesh and it is not redeemed - it will always lust - but we are to rule over it <p>Satan is behind all of this</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - he governs the world as the tempter - appealing to our flesh - You must resist him 	<p>Eph 1-3 - position of a person saved by grace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - members of Christ's body - Resurrection power (dynamos = dynamite) - Seated in the heavenlies - above all rule, power, and authority - Nothing can alter our position - Position is one thing - living it out is another <p>Eph 4-6 - how we live this out in our lives everyday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we live on the earth with flesh - Bodies have appetites that we are not supposed to give in to - Walk in a manner pleasing to God's calling on our lives (Eph 4:1-3; Col 1:10; I Thes 2:12) - Members of a new family - essential to walk in love that covers - Put on Christ and put off the old self - If we are filled with the Holy Spirit then we have the power to treat others properly - We are seated above the enemy - but we are battling with him every day - Stand firm in the Lord and put on the full armor of God 	<p>Until Jesus comes or He takes us home we will be engaged in a relentless battle/struggle/wrestle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pale #G3823 - hand-to-hand combat - Close quarters - participants try to throw and subdue one another - wrestling - Wrestling characterized by trickery, cunning, strategy - jockeying for position <p>Enemy's Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Destroy our unity with God, the body of Christ, and with our family - God has abandoned you (Jn 6:35-40) - Separate from God (Ro 8:31-38) - Submit to God (James 4:5-10) 2. Entice you to sin so that he can gain a place in your life as a child of God 3. Lead you into false teaching

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Preparation for Battle	6 "S's" of our Position	Practice Positional Living
<p>Eph 1:15-23; 3:14-21 - be strong in the Lord and the strength of His might and in His power</p> <p>Put on the full armor of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - panoplia #G3833 - individual pieces that make up a whole - no gaps in the armor - When you entered the kingdom of God you were given the armor for battle - Ultimate victory over the enemy was assured - You must put on each piece if you are going to win the battle - Stand firm (6:11, 13, 14) - military term - hold your position 	<p><u>Selected</u> by God Eph 1:4 - He chose us</p> <p><u>Saved</u> by God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eph 1:7 - redeemed by the blood of His Son - He 2:14 - death no longer has power over us - Job 1:10 - God puts a hedge around us <p><u>Sealed</u> by God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise (Eph 1:13; 4:30) - He who began a good work in me will be faithful to complete it (Phil 1:6) <p><u>Seated</u> in the heavenlies (Eph 2:6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - excellent vantage point for war - high ground is a military plus <p><u>Secure</u> in Him</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - part of God's household (Eph 2:19) - Members of His body (Eph 3:6) - His children <p><u>Strength</u> through God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eph 3:16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we are dead to sin - Free from slavery - Those who walk in the Spirit will not sin - We still sin WHY???????? - It can't be a habitual lifestyle of sin <p>BUT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we get tangled up is so nasty sin and sometimes we stay there for a time - Only God knows our heart - We can't flirt with sin - There is a difference between judging actions and being judgmental - Mt 7:1-6 - He 12:1 - Jude 22

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Satan's Influence	Cleansing of Worldly Things	Paul's Command
<p>Eph 6:12 - battle/wrestling - not against flesh and blood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rulers (principalities) #G746- arche - demons - Powers #G1849 - exousia - authority over mankind - Satan - World forces #G2888 - kosmoskrator - dark way of using the world (sky) to control man - astrology, psychics, horoscopes - Dt 17:2-7 - demonic - Spiritual forces of wickedness #G4189 - poneria - depravity, wickedness, evil, spiritual beings with influence over man MTV, pornography, sex trafficking, sexual perversion, horror movies, violence, brutality <p>Wickedness in operation in our world</p> <p>Harry Potter - taught to millions of children</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get rid of any books, articles, magazines, replicas representing anything evil - Acts 19:19 - 50,000 pieces of silver = \$27,800,000 2. Confess our sin before God - tell God that you repent of this sin 3. Thank God for the blood of Jesus which cleanses us from sin (I Jn 1:9) 4. Refuse any influence the enemy may have gained (I Jn 4:4; Rev 12:11) 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you - everything in your earthly temple should be glorifying to God 6. Spend time praising God the Father - He inhabits the praises of His people (Ps 22:3) <p>First fruits - giving to God the first of everything - trusting that He will provide for your needs</p>	<p>Take up the full armor of God that you will be able to resist (Eph 6:13)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - take up = describing the last preparation necessary before entering battle - Call to immediate action - By obeying the commands it guarantees victory - There is nothing to fear in our battles except your own unbelief or disobedience

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Having Girded Your Loins with Truth	Gird your Minds for Action	You Have a Choice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - completed action - we have already put on the full armor (6:11) - All of the armor is based in truth - Girding = a belt - we belt on truth - Belt holds our sword - Holds the tunic in place allowing them to run into battle - Secures the breastplate which protects vital organs - Keeps everything in its proper place <p>Truth . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . . . keeps our righteousness in its proper place . . . teaches us the difference between right and wrong . . . allows us to use our sword effectively . . . protects us . . . anchors us 	<p>All of our lives we were subjected to the father of lies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we believed a lie - We lived a lie - We told lies - The grace of God opened our eyes and we saw truth (Jn 17:14-17) - truth will set us free - God's word has been attacked throughout the ages <p>I Pet 1:13 - gird up (prepare) your minds for action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we need to resist the devil and stand firm in our faith - II Pet 1:19-21 - II Tim 3:16-17 - Mt 5:17-18 - Lk 24:25-27 - Mt 12:40; 19:4-6 <p>We need to believe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is God-given - God-breathed - God-protected - God-preserved - Inerrant in the original language - Contains all you need for life and godliness (II Pet 1:3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You can walk-in the futility of your mind or walk in truth - Jn 14:6 - I am the truth - Jn 17:17 - His word is truth - Jn 8:32 - truth will set us free <p>II Cor 11:2-15 - Satan wants to lead us away from the truth of God's word - leading your mind astray to a false gospel</p> <p>What will happen if we don't keep our belts tight?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I Tim 4:1-3 - deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons - Eph 4:14 - carried away by every wind of doctrine <p>What should we do?</p> <p>Eph 4:15 - speak the truth in love, GROW UP in all aspects into Him who is the head</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - need to be patient with those who are struggling - Help others grow - Never called to ostracize (avoid) sinners - we are to love them - so-called brothers we are to correct (I Cor 5:9-13; Mt 18:15-17)