

## Day 22 - The Belt

You don't bring a knife to a gun fight and you don't fight (effectively) a spiritual fight with everyday weapons.

It's why we see people, governments and organisations doing their very best, trying to change something in the natural, that has a supernatural cause and being not only unsuccessful but somehow achieving the opposite of the desired result.

The enemy does not want you to bring positive, sustainable change to your life!

And so you must resist, whether you like it or not.

Focusing too much in this area is not a good idea, but either is sticking your head in the sand.

Paul lays out a simple strategy to resist and disrupt the plans of the enemy for your life.

It's worth reading Ephesians 6:10-20 each day this week.

The first piece of armour mentioned is the 'belt of truth'.

The belt protects what is vulnerable covering what would otherwise be an easy target on a soldier.

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The belt keeps our pants up too. In this way our dignity is kept in tack.

The truth protects us where we are the most vulnerable.....our thinking life.

In the garden of Eden the serpent said “did God really say that”. He was able to get Adam and Eve to question what the truth was.

Jesus combatted temptation in the desert with truth (Luke 4) and much of this course has been about ‘changing the way we think’ to what is true.

If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, the truth is .....

You are a child of the living God ....

You are royalty .... an heir to the throne .....

You are forgiven ....

You are powerful .....

You are with God’s help able to anything!

That’s why reading the Word each day is so important. We need to be regularly reminded of the truth, which sets us free, protects, leads and guides.

**FULLY ALIVE**

## Day 23 - The Breastplate

The Breastplate of righteousness keeps the enemies blows ineffective.

I love how many of these spiritual warfare activities are really just godly activities. Much spiritual war happens unintentionally.

Praise and worship is spiritual warfare just as much as casting out demons. In praise and worship I think about the Lord not the devil, yet I know of it's effectiveness.

Righteousness matters and has a direct impact on our lives. With that truth in mind, we live lives worthy of His calling.

And whilst we try (Col 1:28-29) to live a righteous life, we need to continue to be humble. One of the most important takeaways from this course.

Remember God opposes the proud and gives grace/favour to the humble.

Humility is knowing your own righteousness is like filthy rags compared to God's righteousness.

That's why we fight by falling on our knees.

It's why we fight by asking for forgiveness.

It's why we fight by putting on the righteousness of Christ.

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## Day 24 - Boots

Boots firmly fitted are essential for fast and flexible responses to life and at times the enemy. Good boots allow us to jump higher, pivot quicker, walk further and so much more.

In our 'upside down Kingdom' we belong to, the boots Paul talks about is the 'gospel of peace'.

We fight with the good news of 'Shalom' - which we usually translate as peace.

Shalom means peace, wholeness or completeness. It's so much more than the absence of conflict.

The 'gospel' or the royal declaration of good news is that 'shalom' is within reach.

Through Jesus we have everything we need and sharing that with others is the greatest endeavour we can embark on in this life.

Jesus said that He came to give us life to the full (Day 1 - John 10:10) and 'shalom' is a huge part of that...

And is part of the armour of God.

## Day 25 - The Shield

Paul writes : “take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one” - Ephesians 6:16.

Again we don't always think of 'faith' as an act of spiritual war .... but it is.

Faith is so important. Jesus said those that believe will be saved and those that don't will not (Mark 16:16).

'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith' - Paul also writes earlier in Ephesians 2:8.

With humility (again) we should note, that not even that faith was our own v9-10.

We should desire that our faith increases!  
How do we do that?

Well Jesus' disciples asked for 'more' faith (Luke 17:5) and 'hearing the word' brings faith (Romans 10:9).

In many ways, it comes back to the basics.  
Keep praying, stay humble, read the word, share the good news.

'Shalom'!

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## Day 26 - The Helmet

The Helmet of Salvation is the knowledge that no matter what life throws at you, you are saved - body, soul and spirit.

Although primarily a defensive weapon (like the others so far) the helmet (and the others) could be used for offense.

With a great big spike on the top of the helmet, not only did it protect the brain, but could be used to attack the enemy.

Our knowledge of salvation brings comfort, brings security, brings peace and a secure identity, all which closes doors to the enemy. Anger, bitterness, unforgiveness etc opens them.

We fight knowing in the end we win.

We fight knowing that God is on our side.

We fight knowing the creator of the universe died for our sins, for our wholeness, for our salvation.

If we truly understand this, it changes our belief at our very core.

And really that is what we truly need to see positive, lasting change in our lives.

Repent - Metanoia - Think Bigger - from the perspective of Heaven.

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## Day 27 - The Sword

The Sword is the most powerful of all the weapons. The one you couldn't win a fight without is a sword, which Paul says is the word of God.

It seems to all come back to the same things.  
Keep it simple.

As you have an intimate relationship with God, you will hear His voice. And His voice will be crucial for you to navigate this life well, to be whole and fruitful.

The written word of God is tested and shown itself to be reliable and life changing, so don't stray from the Bible.

The Lord will speak to you over and over again from the static pages that somehow dynamically speak.

Jesus is known as 'the word' - John 1:1 & 14. The world exists because God said 'let there be light' - Gen 1:4 and Jesus won the battle against satan with the word (Luke 4).

When He speaks to you directly it is powerful too.

'The word' aka Jesus said 'my sheep hear my voice' - John 10:27.

So stay close to the Lord and let your relationship with Him flow into all areas of your life.

God bless!

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**Day 28 - Rest**

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