

Gear Up – Part 1

- **Ephesians 6:14-15**

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- ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Belt of Truth

- Alethia (al-ayth-yoo'-o) – to be true (in doctrine and profession); speaking the truth
- You need to know the truth before you can live out the truth.

- Colossians 2:6-8

- ⁶Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in [union with] Him [reflecting His character in the things you do and say—living lives that lead others away from sin], ⁷having been deeply rooted [in Him] and *now* being *continually* built up in Him and [becoming increasingly more] established in your faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing in it with gratitude. (AMP)

- To bring every thought into captivity, to demolish arguments, does not require a helmet than can merely deflect, it requires that we know and embrace the truth
- To not have the belt on was to be unprepared – The foundation of the armor was the belt; the foundation of our faith is Truth. (John 14:6)
- Psalms 119:160 - ¹⁶⁰ The entirety of Your word *is* truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.

To be gird with truth means we must:

- 1. Know truth – there must be an overwhelming desire for God's Word
- Proverbs 23:23 - Buy the truth, and do not sell *it*, *also* wisdom and instruction and understanding.
- We cannot take thoughts captive that aren't true, if we do not first know what is true (2 Corinthians 10)

To be gird with truth means we must:

- 2. Love truth
- Jeremiah 15:16 - Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.
- Love the hard truths; love the correction. It is God's truth that sets us free (John 8:32)

To be gird with truth means we must:

- 3. Lean on the Giver of truth
- John 16:13 (1 John 5:6 – The Holy Spirit is Truth)
- When we are open to His leading, the Holy Spirit will tell us when something is a lie, remind us of God's promises when we need to be encouraged and warn us when we are about to do wrong

Breastplate of Righteousness

- ¹⁴ ... having put on the breastplate of righteousness (an upright heart), (AMP)
- Psalm 89:14-15 - ¹⁴ Righteousness and justice *are* the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face. ¹⁵ Blessed *are* the people who know the *joyful sound! They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your countenance. (*The joyful call to worship)
- Isaiah 11:5 - Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.

- To Paul, righteousness here is more than positional, it also means an inward righteousness shown by purity, uprightness and a Godly character
- We believe the truth that God has said, we know the truth that God has said and we will now live the truth before God and man

- We have it wrong when we want God to rescue us so we can live right.
- 1 Timothy 6:11 - ¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (2 Tim. 2:22 – Flee youthful lusts)

- To know the truth and live out the truth, the more secure the breastplate will become.
- The breastplate covers your heart and the battle is for our hearts. When we live for Jesus and in Jesus, we find ourselves both protected and encouraged by Him

Feet Shod

- ¹⁵ and having strapped on your feet the gospel of peace in preparation [to face the enemy with firm-footed stability and the readiness produced by the good news]. (AMP)
- Having our feet shod prepares of to face our enemy, gives us courage to face him and yes, give us courage to witness
- 1 Peter 3:15 - ¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;