

THE BELT OF TRUTH

Week 52 | May 27, 2025

"Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth..."

Ephesians 6:14

We live in a **world at war**. This is *known* and *obvious* to anyone actively seeking to <u>live for Christ</u>. It is also incredibly **easy to forget**. Intellectually, we know that battles rage *all around us* every minute of every day. In reality, though, too often we go about our lives spiritually <u>naked and defenseless</u>. God did not **intend** for us to live and fight in this way, instead He provided us with the *armor* and *weaponry* we need in order to <u>stand firm</u> in the **victory** won on Easter (<u>Ephesians 6:11</u>).

We start this week in praying for the *belt of truth* (<u>Isaiah 11:5</u>) to cover our families, churches, and communities. This <u>essential</u> piece of armor serves as our "**holy filter**" that is the key to:

1. FREEDOM (<u>John 8:32</u>)

- a. **NOTE:** *Lies* and *deception* are the <u>primary strategies</u> of our **great Enemy**. Their power was *broken* by the <u>cross and empty tomb</u>, so today they spend their time attempting to **entrap** and **ensnare** humanity through *clever delusions* and <u>convincing counterfeits</u>, seeking to keep the lost **in bondage** and return the saved *to their chains*. The belt of truth <u>offers protection</u> from these **continual assaults** as well as the *discernment* necessary to <u>cut through</u> the **web of lies** that is being woven around *our hearts*. We were saved <u>to be free</u>, and truth is the key to **receiving** and **remaining** as such. (John 8:44; Proverbs 28:11)
 - i. For Ex. "Lord God, thank You for coming to set us free, free from sin and free to live righteously. Our Enemy has tried to place us back into bondage, has attempted to ensnare us with lies and deceit in order to steal away the liberty that You bought with Your precious blood. Cover us this day with Your belt of truth, guarding us from every delusion and exposing every counterfeit. Grant us Your supernatural discernment, Lord, so that we might see through the schemes of the Evil One and experience instead the freedom that You so freely offer."
 - 1. **REMEMBER:** The worst lies are the ones we tell **ourselves**. (Prov. 14:8)

2. HOLINESS (<u>John 17:17</u>)

a. **NOTE:** Did you know that God wants to not only **save** you, but **sanctify** you as well? Salvation is *the first step* in a <u>lifelong process</u> of being **made holy** by our *holy God*, transformed more and more into the <u>likeness of Christ</u>. **Truth** is the Father's tool for doing so, for it is by *His truth* that we are <u>purified and perfected</u>. Our role in this process? Simply to **receive** and **respond** to His truth as it is revealed to us, <u>clinging to it</u> desperately as if it were **the key to life** itself, for that's *what it truly is*. (Hebrews 10:14; John 17:9; <u>Luke 8:15</u>)

- i. For Ex. "Father God, thank You for Your holiness. You are *good* and do nothing but good. Thank You for granting to us the <u>righteousness of Christ</u>, for making us perfectly complete in Him and for *continuing* to make us more and more <u>like Him</u>. Fill our lives with Your truth this day, Father, the truth that *cuts away* anything and everything found that is <u>not pleasing</u> to You. Release us from the lies that continue to corrupt, and give us instead the *desire and power* to receive and respond to Your word in our life, for *the truth is always better*."
 - 1. **REMEMBER:** *Purification* will be **painful**, but its purpose is <u>good</u>. (<u>Psalm 119:71</u>)

3. WORSHIP (<u>John 4:24</u>)

- a. **NOTE:** Even our worship can be *perverted*, **twisted away** from its <u>original purpose</u> and *poisoned* by **deceit** and **dishonesty**. What God desires from us is not a *phony faith* or our **pretend praise**, but rather a <u>true and genuine</u> worship of who He **really is** that comes *from the heart*. The Enemy hates this and therefore seeks <u>to corrupt</u> our ability to do so by various **counterfeits**, **pressures**, and **distractions**. Thank the Lord, though, for His *belt of truth* allows us to worship God with all <u>sincerity and intimacy</u> as we were **created to**. (Mark 7:7; John 4:23; Psalm 95:6)
 - i. For Ex. "Dear Lord, thank You for the privilege and opportunity it is to worship You in Spirit and truth. We often forget, Lord, that we are unworthy of even this honor. Forgive us, Father, for all the times we have worshiped You falsely or come before You with pretenses of praise. Give us today, God, a true and genuine heart of worship built on a pure and undefiled knowledge of and love for You. Guard us against all deceptions of the Enemy that attempt to poison this worship, instead maintaining the purity and intimacy You have blessed us with."
 - 1. **REMEMBER:** God wants **the real you**, *no one else*. (Psalm 51:6)

Questions for Reflection:

- What lies of the Enemy have you been telling yourself?
 - Break the cycle of <u>self-deception</u> that is keeping you **in bondage** and be *set free* by God's truth for you instead.
- Have you been hiding from the truth to spare yourself the pain of its purification?
 - Step into **the light**. God's healing is *worth the hurt*.
- Do you ever catch yourself offering **half-hearted** praise or *watered down* worship that you don't really mean?
 - o God would rather you **be real** than *religious*. Honesty is the only way to approach Him.