

THE WEAPON OF TRUTH

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Part 2 - The Battle for Truth as Individuals

I. Introductory Remarks & Review.

Isaiah 59:4-5 *No one calls for justice, nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity. They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; he who eats of their eggs dies, and from that which is crushed a viper breaks out.*

This Scripture speaks of how our lives can be affected by a culture in an era that speaks lies and trusts in empty words. The truth of the matter is that our lives have been affected by a culture that has been overwhelmed with lies and falsehood.

In the previous section I began talking about the Battle for Truth in our culture. I spoke concerning the battle for truth in the church and how both the historical and the charismatic or more contemporary churches are under spiritual attack from the enemy concerning truth. The enemy knows that if he can get us to bite at his lies and falsehood just as he did with Eve in the garden, he has gained a position to stand in which he can launch major attacks against us. By walking in truth we take his place of standing away.

John 8:44 *"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.*

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

In the previous message I spoke on how the church must put on the belt of truth and use it as an effective weapon against the enemy. In this message today, I want to talk about the "Battle for Truth in our Personal Lives," and how we as believers must put on the weapon of truth and use it against the enemy.

II. Putting On the Weapon of Truth.

I want to give you some effective keys and principles that will enable you to wear the belt of truth as God has designed it. It takes more than just having the belt of truth available, you must wear it effectively if you are to defeat the enemy and walk in faith and victory.

1. You Must Come Under The Covering Of A Bible-Centered Church.

Proverbs 18:10 *The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.*

Since the church is the pillar and ground of truth, as we saw in the previous message, it is a place where you should be protected from the lies and the deceit of the enemy by learning how to walk in the truth of God's word. You must, however submit yourself.

Hebrews 13:17 *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

2. You Must Have A Teachable Spirit.

You can be in a church that adheres to the Biblical principles of sound doctrine and truth and still miss it personally. There is a tremendous battle for truth in our personal lives as believers. Satan doesn't like being shut out. He will do everything he can to maintain a foothold in your life. By having a teachable spirit you keep yourselves open to the truth of God's Word.

Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*

We must realize that we have strongholds that have been formed through years of listening to the lies of the devil. We have many false concepts that have been embraced through our journeys in life. We must be willing to tear down the false concepts and replace them with the truth of God's word.

Psalms 33:4 *For the word of the LORD is right, And all His work is done in truth.*

Romans 3:4 *Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when You are judged."*

If we want victory in a certain area, our thoughts must be brought into conformity and agreement with the word of truth.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...*

Isaiah 55:9 *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My [ways higher] than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.*

3. We Must Allow The Word Of Truth & The Spirit Of Truth To Expose Our Sin.

Psalms 51:5-6 *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.*

Our flesh and our carnal nature will resist the truth just as David did until the Lord used the prophet Nathan to deal with him. He tried to cover and excuse his sin, but God used Nathan to speak the word of truth to him.

We can't hide from God because He is intimately acquainted with all our ways. We must begin by being open and honest with God.

When Satan comes to you does he find unconfessed and unrepented sin in your life? If not, then he has no place to stand. If so, then he has a place to stand and keep you in defeat.

4. We Must Build Two & Three Cord Relationships.

It is one thing to confess our sins and faults to God, but it is another thing to confess our sins and faults before another individual. I believe there is a great release from the bondage of sin when we are able to be truthful about ourselves in this manner with another individual. I believe God desires for us to have at least one relationship where we have this liberty.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. {10} For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.*

James 5:16 *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that*

you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

5. The Word And Spirit Of Truth Must Lead Us Rather Than Our Emotions.

Psalms 25:5 *Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.*

John 16:13 *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

Many Christians fail to walk in faith and victory simply because they are be led by their emotions rather than the Spirit of Truth. As a result they become tangled in a web of destruction. They make major decisions in life based on their emotions rather than Biblical principles of truth or genuine Spirit led guidance. People in this position are so tangled up; they are useless as effective tools for God.

Think of the victory we could have if our major decisions in life were based on the truth of God's Word rather than our own thoughts and emotions which fall short of God's intended purpose for our lives.

Let God be true and every man a liar. The heart is deceitful above all things.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

Sometimes, just because God doesn't stop you from doing something, people have a tendency to think it is alright and is even God's will and purpose.

Through the practice of truth over a time you can spin yourself out of Satan's web of deceit and destruction.

John 8:32 *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

6. You Must Keep The Commandments.

1 John 2:4 *He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

III. Concluding Remarks.

I have given you six important principles that will help you to continually walk the truth God desires for your personal lives. I believe if you do this, you will have rendered Satan ineffective in your lives by pulling the rug out from under his feet. He will have nowhere to stand and direct his attacks, because there is no truth in him and when you are walking in truth, you have taken his position of attack away from him. This is why the apostle John said he had no greater joy than to see his children walking in truth.

3 John 1:4 *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*