

## THE BELT OF TRUTH

JAMIE MCNAB

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When it comes to sin and deception ... we need to be aware of satan and his realm. We need to remain vigilant and guard our minds.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NKJV)

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. *(And he finds some ... and he wouldn't mind finding you)*

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. *(we have to be prepared to resist him)*

2 Timothy 2:24-26 (NKJV)

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

26 and that they may come to their senses *(may awake from their sleep)* and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. *(Some people are snared by the devil)*

Ephesians 6:10-17 (NKJV)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. *(There is a battle ... Put your armour on ... there is an enemy)*

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness

of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (4 different ranks of spirit beings)

13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

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;

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

There are several items of armour of God. These are descriptions of key characteristics that we would need in our life ... to ensure that we win in battle. These describe characteristics of a successful Christian. But ... we are so very reliant on our physical senses ... that we tend to forget about this spiritual world. Much of the time we are oblivious to this spiritual world. There is a good example in the Old Testament ... see the next few verses.

### 2 Kings 6:8-23 (NKJV)

8 Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place."

9 And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there."

10 Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.

11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?"

12 **And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."**

13 So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him."

And it was told him, saying, "Surely he is in Dothan."

14 **Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.**

15 **And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"**

16 **So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."**

17 **And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see."** Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. **And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.** *(what was visible now was chariots of the Lord. The spiritual world is not a dream ... it is real. The invisible spirit world is always there)*

18 **So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness."** And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

19 Now Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." But he led them to Samaria.

20 So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, "Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." And the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw; and there they were, inside Samaria!

21 Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?"

22 But he answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set

food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.”

23 Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel.

We can see another example in Daniel’s life.

#### **Daniel 10:1-7 (NKJV)**

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision.

2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks.

3 I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

4 Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris,

5 I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz!

6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in colour, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.

7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.

#### **Daniel 10:10-14 (NKJV)**

10 Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands.

11 And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now

**been sent to you.**" While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

12 Then he said to me, "**Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.** (*Daniel decides to humble himself before God ... and God sent Gabriel to him ... but ...* )

13 **But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days;** (*the wicked spirits in heavenly places*) and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. (*Here is opposition to one of God's messengers ... even then ... Gabriel needed help from Michael*)

14 Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."

How many times do we give up when we seemingly don't get an answer to one of our prayers? Do we consider that there is spiritual opposition? Satan wants us to doubt God's promises.

#### **Hebrews 1:13-14 (NKJV)**

13 **But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?**

14 **Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?** (*So ... in passing ... it tells us what the Angels are out "doing"*)

#### **Hebrews 1:14 (AMP)**

14 **Are not the angels all ministering spirits (servants) sent out in the service [of God for the assistance] of those who are to inherit salvation?**

The invisible realm is there whether we believe it ... see it ... or not. Many situations in our life have a spiritual component. Don't forget ... we are told to be wearing our spiritual armour. If we don't wear it ... there are consequences.

### **Revelation 3:11 (NKJV)**

11 **Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.** (What? We might lose our crown? Hold fast to what is right and true ... because someone might come and steal it ... or someone else is given your crown because you forfeit it. God giving it to someone else who merits it)

### **Ephesians 6:14 (GNB)**

14 **So stand ready, with truth as a belt tight around your waist,** (*We have got to gird our waist ... It is our responsibility!!*)

The key antidote to all deception is TRUTH!! If we keep to the truth ... we can't be deceived. Truth is the first item described in the armour. That may be because it is the most important.

### **John 17:14-17 (NKJV)**

14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. (*Satan the devil ... who is still going about seeking whom he may devour*)

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

17 **Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.** (*Consecrate ... set apart ... Make them holy*)

**GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH.** The truth in us sets us apart. The knowledge of the truth is our defence. God's truth is unchangeable!! We should be experts in the Word of God.

### **John 8:12 (NKJV)**

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."**

### **John 8:30-32 (NKJV)**

30 As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, **"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."**

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

That sounds good. The truth shall make you free ... which is quite good news. IF YOU ABIDE ... remain ... dwell ... "IN MY WORD". It is the truth that you know ... that makes you free.

### **Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)**

1 **I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.**

2 **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

We are not to be shaped, formed ... to the world around us. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. Satan "goes for our minds". Satan requires us to respond ... to act. If we know the truth ... we can more easily avoid deception.

### **Romans 12:2 (Voice)**

2 **Do not allow this world to mold you in its own image. Instead, be transformed from the inside out by renewing your mind. As a result, you will be able to discern what God wills and whatever God finds good, pleasing, and complete.**

For example ... in the world ... some people have said that adultery can add a bit of spice to your life. Homosexuality is now accepted as new and modern ... and "the way to go". We shouldn't let the world mold us into its way. Another example. The world accepts God as a Trinity. Some people think that God sends sickness ... which He does not. Some people believe that poverty is godly. Many people in the "Christian world" believe that it's okay to eat rabbit, pork, lobster. Why? Because they think it is the truth. What is the answer to wrong lifestyles? Answer: THE TRUTH ... THAT YOU KNOW!!

### **2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 (NKJV)**

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

3 **Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, (the antidote for deception is THE TRUTH ... and you won't be deceived in this area)**

### **2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (NKJV)**

9 **The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,**

10 **and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (If they had loved the truth ... they wouldn't have been deceived)**

11 **And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,**

12 **that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (If you don't believe the**

*truth ... you will end up being deceived ... be dead. Judgment has begun at the Household of God. Potentially ... we lose our crown)*

## **2 Thessalonians 2:13-15 (NKJV)**

13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 **Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.** *(Some traditions are good if they are based on the truth. Traditions ... we have to be careful with)*

Do we value The Word of God? The Truth? How much time and effort do we put in to reading our Bible ... reflecting on the Truth? How much time do we spend in The Word of God? It must be an indicator of where our minds are.

## **2 Timothy 2:15-18 (NKJV)**

15 **Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** *(Get busy ... work hard ... study ... put some effort into it ... do your best)*

16 **But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.**

17 **And their message will spread like cancer.** Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,

18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

## **2 Timothy 3:13 - 4:4 (NKJV)**

13 **But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.**

14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

#### Chapter 4

1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

2 **Preach the word!** Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (*Keep at it! Keep at it! Keep at it!*)

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (*They want fun preachers that will preach "smooth things". That means that they have taken off the belt of truth. That means their crowns will be taken away*)

#### 2 Peter 2:1-3 (NKJV)

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. (*Many ... not a few!*)

3 By covetousness (*greed*) they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their

**destruction does not slumber.** (*Watch out for destructive ways. They will destroy*)

## **2 Peter 3:14-18 (NKJV)**

14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, **be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;**

15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, **which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.** (*This is a warning. Some people will twist scriptures*)

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, **beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;** (*take heed!*) (*The antidote is: KNOW THE TRUTH!*)

18 **but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.** To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

## **Matthew 4:1-4 (NKJV)**

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (*The truth! Jesus turns to The Word of God ... turns to The Truth*)

## **Matthew 4:5-7 (NKJV)**

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,  
6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and,  
'In their hands they shall bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "

7 **Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'** "

#### **Matthew 4:8-11 (NKJV)**

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

10 Then **Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'** "

11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

JESUS TURNED TO THE TRUTH. Can we find a scripture? Can we find that truth at the relevant moment?

#### **Ephesians 6:11-14 (NKJV)**

11 **(YOU) Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

12 **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

13 **(YOU) Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

14 (YOU) Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Summarising. We've all got Bibles. We've all got the truth. Invest time and effort. Sacrifice things that might be more appealing. So the Belt of Truth is very important. Let's not be lazy here. Let's make sure our belt of truth is firmly attached around our waist.