

# FRONTLINE

## WEEK 4 – ARMOR OF GOD PT. 1



Our fiercest battle is not against flesh & blood, but against spiritual forces in this dark world. Today, as we find ourselves surrounded by a world and culture that seems to be “*anti-God*,” we need to remember that God has given us all we need to stand. God’s armor helps us stand strong for Him in each of our battlefields: soul, mind, heart, and body! (**Ephesians 6:13-17**)

Why are we commanded to put on God’s Armor? We must be fully prepared and enabled to withstand the temptations of our flesh, the challenges of this world and the enemy’s attacks! It’s a matter of being fully ready and prepared.

*[some material taken from Chip Ingram’s study called, “The Invisible War.”]*

### 1. BELT OF TRUTH

- Digging Deeper
  - Satan’s main tactic against us is **DECEPTION!**
  - The belt of Truth holds everything up & together – it permeates into all areas of our life!
- Battlefields
  - **Soul** – confusion of the Truth of the Gospel – the good news of Jesus
  - **Mind** – deception at the core: what do I believe? What is my source of Truth?
  - **Heart** – being totally honest with God, others, & ourselves in light of God’s Word
  - **Body** – personal integrity in holiness and righteousness
- What God says...
  - Jesus Christ is the **TRUTH (John 14:6)**
  - **James 1:16-18** / Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.
- Our Response: Be honest and vulnerable with God and with others; daily seek to walk in integrity and holiness
  - **Psalms 139:23-24** / Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

**Lies we believe:** \* Take care of yourself first.  
\* Truth is relative \* A loving God wouldn’t let bad things happen \* What you have doesn’t measure up

**Giving in to Satan’s deceit:** we shift blame with denial; twisting the Scripture; sin becomes appealing; we question God’s goodness, love, and offer of forgiveness

### 2. BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Digging Deeper
  - Satan uses “**ACCUSATION**” against us in our struggle with the flesh & sin – this results in feelings of guilt and condemnation for the believer
  - The breastplate of the ancient world would be like our armored vest – protecting the vital parts of the mind & body. Without this vital part of the armor, one would be very exposed to the enemy’s attack.
  - **Righteousness** = uprightness, right living, integrity in lifestyle and character; conforming to God’s will
  - When we willfully turn away from God’s will, we open ourselves up to demonic influence in our lives.
- Battlefields
  - **Soul** – the LIE: your sin is too great for God to love & forgive you
  - **Mind** – believing what is contrary to the Truth of Scripture
  - **Heart** – letting feelings/attitudes dominate even when it goes against the Truth of God
  - **Body** – Dilemma: am I going to be HOLY and set apart in my daily actions?
- What God says...
  - **Isaiah 61:10** / I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of **righteousness**, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
  - **Romans 6:13** / Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of **righteousness**.
  - **James 4:17** / Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.
- Our Response: You must **APPLY** what you know to be true in your everyday life!
  - **James 1:22-24** / Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.