

UNDER ARMOR

EPH. 6:14-17

PERFORMANCE APPAREL

#2 of 7—The Crossings Church

BUCKLE UP—PUTTING ON THE BELT OF TRUTH

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand *against* the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not *against* flesh and blood, but *against* the rulers, *against* the authorities, *against* the powers of this dark world and *against* the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ **Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist**, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **Ephesians 6:10-17 (NLT)**

- **WE FIGHT AGAINST AN ENEMY THAT IS AGAINST US.**

“not against flesh and blood”

“against principalities”

“against powers”

“against the rulers of the darkness of this age”

‘against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.’

“against the schemes of the devil”

- **CHRISTIANITY IS A _____ GROUND NOT A _____.**

? WHY IS THE BELT OF TRUTH THE FIRST ITEM TO BE PUT ON?

1. THE BELT _____

Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth... **Ephesians 6:14 (ASV)**

2. THE BELT _____

Therefore, prepare your minds for action...**1 Peter 1:13 (ISV)**

3. THE BELT _____

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **John 8:44 (ESV)**

? WHAT IS THE “TRUTH” THAT MAKES UP THE BELT?

1. IT IS _____ TRUTH - A loving relationship with Christ.

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”. **John 14:6** (NIV)

After this, many of his disciples left. They no longer wanted to be associated with him. Then Jesus gave the Twelve their chance: “Do you also want to leave?”⁶⁸⁻⁶⁹ Peter replied, “Master, to whom would we go? You have the words of real life, eternal life. We’ve already committed ourselves, confident that you are the Holy One of God.” **John 6:67-69** (MP)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment...⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on....” **Matthew 22:37, 38, 40** (NIV)

2. IT IS _____ TRUTH - A loving devotion for Christ’s word.

Use the truth to make them holy. Your word is truth. **John 17:17** (NLT)

...he employs every manner of wicked deception to wile away those who are destined for eternal death because they reject the love of the truth that leads to salvation. **2 Thessalonians 2:10** (VOICE)

3. IT IS _____ TRUTH - A sincere presentation of who I am.

May grace be with all who **sincerely love the Lord Jesus**, the Messiah!
Ephesians 6:24 (ISV)

Surely you desire integrity in the inner self... **Psalms 51:6** (CSB)

And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places... **Psalms 51:6** (ESV)

“Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed... but truly teach the way of God...” **Mark 12:14a** (ESV)

They will maintain the outward appearance of religion but have repudiated its power. So avoid people like these. **2 Timothy 3:5** (NET)

“Great sorrow awaits...frauds and pretenders! You do all you can to keep people from experiencing the reality of heaven’s kingdom.¹ Not only do you refuse to enter in, you also forbid anyone else from entering in! ¹⁵ “Great sorrow awaits... frauds and pretenders! For you will travel over lake and land to find one disciple, only to make him twice the child of hell as yourselves **Matthew 23:13, 15** (TPT)

? HOW CAN I PUT ON THE BELT OF TRUTH?

NOTE: The belt is woven of _____ I believe, _____ I believe, _____ I believe.

- I will buckle down to build my personal _____ with Christ.
- I will buckle down to build my personal _____ of God’s word.
- I will buckle down to be _____ and _____ with my life.