

121 - Having Girded Your Loins with Truth - Ephesians 6:14 - 2016-12-25

Call to Worship: Psalm 25:2, 5

O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me.
Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait
all the day.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-5

Sermon: "Stand Having Girded Your Loins with Truth" Ephesians 6:14

Benediction: Psalm 40:11

INTRODUCTION

We have learned together . . .

Today we take up the graces of Jesus Christ, which we are to put on as armor, considered individually, beginning with truth.

TEXT

Ephesians 6:10-14a Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
(11) Put on the whole armor 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) 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. (14) Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth

BODY

Word: *aletheia*

John 1:45-47 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (46) And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." (47) Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"

alethos

Israelite truly because there is no deceit in him?

Jacob

was a deceiver

Genesis 27:15-16 Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. (16)

And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.

what he was doing needed to be hidden
was deceived

Genesis 29:20-25 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her. (21) Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her." (22) And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast. (23) Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (24) And Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid. (25) So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?"

what he was doing needed to be hidden

God changed him
no longer deceiving
no longer being deceived

Genesis 32:28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Messiah to come to Israel

Isaiah 11:1-5 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. (2) The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (3) His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; (4) But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. (5) Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And **faithfulness aletheia** the belt of His waist.

knowledge
fear of the Lord
as a result
not a deceiver
not deceived
this described as having his loins girded with truth

When Messiah came

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:45-47 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (46) And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." (47) Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite in **truth**, in whom is no deceit!"

not deceived; just because someone says, "Messiah"
not deceiving

Ephesians 4:11-15 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, (13) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; (14) that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, (15) but, speaking the **truth** in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--

not deceived (14)
not deceiving (15) but speaking the truth

Ephesians 4:20-25 But you have not so learned Christ, (21) if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the **truth** is in Jesus: (22) that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, (23) and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, (24) and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (25) Therefore, putting away lying, "LET EACH ONE OF YOU SPEAK TRUTH WITH HIS NEIGHBOR," for we are members of one another.

not deceived by lusts (22b)
not deceiving by telling lies (25)

Ephesians 5:3-10 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; (4) neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. (5) For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (6) **Let no one deceive you** with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (7) Therefore do not be partakers with them. (8) For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (9) (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and **truth**), (10) finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

not deceived

Ephesians 6:11-14 Put on the whole armor 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) 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. (14) Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth

CONCLUSION

What is it, then, to have your loins girded with truth?

No longer

to be deceived by your lusts into doing those evil things,
which then you want to keep hidden because they are evil;

but instead

to know the truth about what the will of God is, and
repent, so as
to act openly according to that truth, as does our Lord Jesus Christ

No longer

to be deceived by false teachers into believing wrongly

but instead

to know the truth about the law of God and the gospel, and
to believe the in our Lord Jesus Christ in all truth.

Isaiah 11:1-5 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. (2) The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (3) His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; (4) But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; **He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. (5) Righteousness shall be the belt [G224 *zonnumi* to bind about with a belt] of His loins, And faithfulness [LXX G225 *aletheia*] the belt of His waist.**

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins [G3751 *osphus*] girt about with [G4024 *perizonnumi*] truth

The Hebrew way of emphasizing something: to say it twice in different words

The Greek way of emphasizing something: to add a prefix such as *mega* or, as in this case, *epi*

K&D:

As the girdle upon the hips (mothnaim, lxx την ὀσφύν), and in front upon the loins (châlâzaim, lxx τὰς πλευράς), fastens the clothes together

tzedâkâh, which follows the inviolable norm of the divine will

hâ'emûnâh, which holds immovably to the course divinely appointed, according to promise

- I. What do we see in the OT passage being alluded to? Is 11:1-5
 - A. something of the Spirit of the Lord
 - B. something related to listed graces

1. wisdom G4678 *sophia*
 2. understanding G4907 *sunesis*
 3. counsel G1012 *boule* volition; advice; purpose; counsel; will
 4. might G2479 *ischus* force; ability; might; power; strength
 5. knowledge G1108 *gnosis*
 6. fear of the LORD G2150 *eusebeia* piety; godliness; holiness
- C. something producing

I. Interpretive Principles

A. Where We Are Not Going to Get Our Understanding

1. The individual piece of armor

B. Where We Are Going to Get Our Understanding

1. The Greek word itself
 - a) not the most important thing
 - b) not always germane
 - c) still important, especially when considering one prominent word, as we do when we see important lists
2. The other lists of graces in Paul's letters (same list essentially in Peter)
 - a) I mentioned this to you under "the WHOLE armor of God"
3. The other uses of this word in Ephesians

4. Old Testament source of this language, if there is one (on this one there clearly is)
5. The Lord Jesus' use of this word, especially if of Himself

II. About This Item

A. G225 *alethia*

1. etymology
 - a) a = negation
 - b) to be hidden or concealed
2. lexicon
 - a) Thayer
 - (1) what is true in any matter under consideration
 - (2) the truth as taught in the Christian religion
 - (3) that candor of mind which is free from affection, pretence, simulation, falsehood, deceit

B. From other lists of graces in Paul's letters

1. 2 Corinthians 6:4-8 we commend ourselves as ministers of God: by the word of truth
 - a) he is talking about the graces of Christ, present in the apostles, by which they commend themselves as true ministers of God, rather than false teachers
2. let's pursue that doctrine---the apostle mentioning truth as a grace that commends the apostles
 - a) 2 Corinthians 4:2 But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
 - b) truth is the opposite of hidden things of shame
 - c) truth is the opposite of walking in craftiness
 - d) truth is the opposite of handling the word of God deceitfully
3. So, someone who commends himself to every man's conscience, aware that he is doing so in the sight of God, by the grace of truth in his life
 - a) is not doing shameful things and trying to keep them hidden
 - b) is not not walking in craftiness
 - c) is not handling the word of God deceitfully

C. From other mentions of this grace in Ephesians

1. Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of **truth**, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
 - a) the gospel of your salvation, in which you heard of Jesus Christ and trusted in Him, and so were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise
2. Ephesians 4:17-24 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of

their mind, (18) having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; (19) who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. (20) But you have not so learned Christ, (21) if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the **truth** is in Jesus: (22) that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, (23) and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, (24) and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

- a) you put off the deceitful lusts, and are renewed in the spirit of your mind
- b) this is the experience of the person born again, converted to Christ
- 3. Ephesians 4:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in **true** righteousness and holiness.
 - a) not any sort of counterfeit righteousness and holiness, but genuine
- 4. Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, putting away lying, "LET EACH ONE OF YOU SPEAK **TRUTH** WITH HIS NEIGHBOR," for we are members of one another.
 - a) putting away lying in favor of speaking the truth

D. From the Old Testament source: Isaiah 11:1-5

1.

E. From our Lord Jesus' use of this word, especially of Himself

1. John 3:21

2 Corinthians 6:7 by the word of truth

Geneva:

preaching of the Gospel

Poole:

living up to and keeping our eye upon the word of God, which is the word of truth; this seems to be the sense, rather than speaking truth to every one, as some have thought

Gill:

By preaching the Gospel, truly, sincerely, without any adulteration of it, which comes from the God of truth, has for its subject matter Christ, who is the truth, and into which ministers are guided by the Spirit of truth, and every doctrine of which is truth:

Clarke:

The doctrine of truth received immediately from God, and faithfully and affectionately preached to men.

truth G225 *aletheia*

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 4:20-25 But you have not so learned Christ, (21) if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the **truth** is in Jesus: (22) that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, (23) and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, (24) and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in **true** righteousness and holiness. (25) Therefore, putting away lying, "LET EACH ONE OF YOU SPEAK **TRUTH** WITH HIS NEIGHBOR," for we are members of one another.

Ephesians 5:9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

2 Corinthians 6:4-8 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, (5) in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; (6) by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, (7) by the word of **truth**, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, (8) by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true;

Calvin:

the purity of the gospel ought to remove
-from our minds all guile
-from our hearts all hypocrisy

Poole:

soundness and sincerity of heart, than which nothing doth more beautify or adorn a Christian
he alludes to Is 59:17; see 2 cor 1:12, 1 Timothy 1:5, 19

Wesley:

Not only with the truths of the gospel, but with truth in the inward parts
So our Lord is described, Isa 11:5
As a girded man is always ready to go on, so this seems to intimate an obedient heart, a ready will.

Gill:

by which is meant the gospel, and the several doctrines of it (see Eph 1:13) and to have the loins girt with it, shows that it should be near and close to the saints, and never departed from; and that it is a means of keeping them close to God and Christ, and of strengthening them against the assaults and attacks of Satan

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Clarke:

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the truth of God; unless this be known and conscientiously believed no man can enter the spiritual warfare with any advantage or prospect of success. By this alone we discover who our enemies are, and how they come on to attack us; and by this we know where our strength lies; and, as the truth is great, and must prevail, we are to gird ourselves with this against all false religion, and the various winds of doctrine by which cunning men and insidious devils lie in wait to deceive. Truth may be taken here for sincerity; for if a man be not conscious to himself that his heart is right before God, and that he makes no false pretences to religion, in vain does he enter the spiritual lists.

Hodge:

By truth, here is not to be understood divine truth as objectively revealed, i.e. the word of God; for that is mentioned in the following verse as the sword. Nor does it mean sincerity of mind, for that is a natural virtue, and does not belong to the armor of God; which according to the context consists of supernatural gifts and graces. But it means truth subjectively considered; that is, **the knowledge and belief of the truth**. This is the first and indispensable qualification for a Christian soldier. To enter on this spiritual conflict ignorant or doubting, would be to enter battle blind and lame. As the girdle gives strength and freedom of action, and therefore confidence, so does the truth when spiritually apprehended and believed. Let not anyone imagine that he is prepared to withstand the assaults of the powers of darkness, if his mind is stored with his own theories or with the speculations of other men. Nothing but the truth of God clearly understood and cordially embraced will enable him to keep his feet for a moment, before these celestial potentates. Reason, tradition, speculative conviction, dead orthodoxy, are a girdle of spider webs. They give way at the first onset. Truth alone, as abiding in the mind in the form of divine knowledge, can give strength or confidence even in the ordinary conflicts of the Christian life, much more in any really "evil day."

JFB:

that is, with truthfulness, sincerity, a good conscience

2 Cor 1:12 1 Tim 1:5 1 Tim 1:18 1 Tim 3:9

Faithfulness (Septuagint, "truth") is the girdle of Messiah (Isa 11:5): so truth of His followers.

Righteousness is here joined with truth, as in Eph 5:9 - righteousness in works, truth in words (Estius) 1 John 3:7

Bengel:

according to the example of the Messiah (Is 11:5)

Hoehner:

Is Paul referring to the objective truth of Christianity or the gospel, or is he referring to subjective truth, the believer's integrity and faithfulness? It has been suggested that this

refers back to Isaiah 11:5, which states that the Messiah's righteousness and faithfulness will be the girdle of his waist, implying subjective truth inherent in the Messiah. nonetheless, in this text it is possible that both objective and subjective truth are in view... objective truth . . . enables them to be reliable and faithful as God is . . . Therefore, though objective truth may be partially in view, the subjective truth of God is the main emphasis.

truth in the gospel of John

(John 1:47) Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite **indeed [G230 *alethos*]**, in whom is no deceit!" NIV: true Israelite

John 3:14-21 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, (15) that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. (16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (18) "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (19) And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (20) For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. (21) But he who does the **truth** comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

John 4:22-24 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. (23) But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (24) God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

John 5:31-34 "If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. (32) There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. (33) You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. (34) Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.

John 8:31-32 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."

John 8:43-47 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. (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. (45) But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. (46) Which of you convicts Me of sin?

And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? (47) He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

John 14:6-7 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (7) "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

John 17:16-19 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (17) Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. (18) As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. (19) And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

2 Peter 1:5-12 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, (6) to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, (7) to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. (8) For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (9) For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. (10) Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; (11) for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (12) For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

Armor of God Eph 6	1 Thess 5:8	2 Cor 6:4-7 2 Cor 4:2	Fruit of the Spirit Gal 5:22	1 Tim 6:11	1 Thess 1:3
truth G225		word G3056 of truth G225 truth G225			
righteousness G1343		righteousness G1343		righteousness G1343	
preparation G2091 of the gospel G2098 of peace G1515			peace G1515		

faith G4102	faith G4102		faith G4102	faith G4102	faith G4102
salvation G4992	hope G1680 of salvation G4991				hope G1680
word G4487 of God G2316					
		knowledge G1108			
	self-controlled G3525		self-control G1466		
		longsuffering G3115	longsuffering G3115		
		patience G5281		patience G5281	patience G5281
				godliness G2150	
		kindness G5544			
	love G26	love G26	love G26	love G26	love G26
			joy G5479		
			gentleness G5544		
			goodness G19		
			meekness G4236	meekness G4236	
		pureness G54			

Call to Worship: Psalm 25:2, 5

O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me.
Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait
all the day.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-5

Sermon: "Stand Having Girded Your Loins with Truth" Ephesians 6:14

Benediction: Psalm 40:11

Isaiah 11:1-5 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. (2) The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (3) His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; (4) But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. (5) Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And **faithfulness [LXX G225 *aletheia*]** the belt of His waist.

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth

III. General Understanding About These Items

A. No direct correspondence of any one grace to a certain piece of armor

IV. About This Item

A. G225 *aletheia*

1. a = negation
2. hidden, concealed

truth G225 *aletheia*

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 4:20-25 But you have not so learned Christ, (21) if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the **truth** is in Jesus: (22) that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, (23) and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, (24) and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in **true** righteousness and holiness.

(25) Therefore, putting away lying, "LET EACH ONE OF YOU SPEAK **TRUTH** WITH HIS NEIGHBOR," for we are members of one another.

Ephesians 5:9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

2 Corinthians 6:4-8 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, (5) in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; (6) by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, (7) by the word of **truth**, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, (8) by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true;

Calvin:

the purity of the gospel ought to remove
-from our minds all guile
-from our hearts all hypocrisy

Poole:

soundness and sincerity of heart, than which nothing doth more beautify or adorn a Christian
he alludes to Is 59:17; see 2 cor 1:12, 1 Timothy 1:5, 19

Wesley:

Not only with the truths of the gospel, but with truth in the inward parts
So our Lord is described, Isa 11:5
As a girded man is always ready to go on, so this seems to intimate an obedient heart, a ready will.

Gill:

by which is meant the gospel, and the several doctrines of it (see Eph 1:13) and to have the loins girt with it, shows that it should be near and close to the saints, and never departed from; and that it is a means of keeping them close to God and Christ, and of strengthening them against the assaults and attacks of Satan

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Clarke:

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the truth of God; unless this be known and conscientiously believed no man can enter the spiritual warfare with any advantage or prospect of success. By this alone we discover who our enemies are, and how they come on to attack us; and by this we know where our strength lies; and, as the truth is great, and must prevail, we are to gird ourselves with this against all false religion, and the various winds of doctrine by which cunning men and insidious devils lie in wait to deceive. Truth may be taken here for sincerity; for if a man be not conscious to himself that his heart is right

before God, and that he makes no false pretences to religion, in vain does he enter the spiritual lists.

Hodge:

By truth, here is not to be understood divine truth as objectively revealed, i.e. the word of God; for that is mentioned in the following verse as the sword. Nor does it mean sincerity of mind, for that is a natural virtue, and does not belong to the armor of God; which according to the context consists of supernatural gifts and graces. But it means truth subjectively considered; that is, the knowledge and belief of the truth. This is the first and indispensable qualification for a Christian soldier. To enter on this spiritual conflict ignorant or doubting, would be to enter battle blind and lame. As the girdle gives strength and freedom of action, and therefore confidence, so does the truth when spiritually apprehended and believed. Let not anyone imagine that he is prepared to withstand the assaults of the powers of darkness, if his mind is stored with his own theories or with the speculations of other men. Nothing but the truth of God clearly understood and cordially embraced will enable him to keep his feet for a moment, before these celestial potentates. Reason, tradition, speculative conviction, dead orthodoxy, are a girdle of spider webs. They give way at the first onset. Truth alone, as abiding in the mind in the form of divine knowledge, can give strength or confidence even in the ordinary conflicts of the Christian life, much more in any really "evil day."

JFB:

that is, with truthfulness, sincerity, a good conscience

2 Cor 1:12 1 Tim 1:5 1 Tim 1:18 1 Tim 3:9

Faithfulness (Septuagint, "truth") is the girdle of Messiah (Isa 11:5): so truth of His followers.

Righteousness is here joined with truth, as in Eph 5:9 - righteousness in works, truth in words (Estius) 1 John 3:7

Bengel:

according to the example of the Messiah (Is 11:5)

Hoehner:

Bayne:

Truth here is soundness,* which is always accompanied with constancy; for which cause the Hebrews do in one word signify both.

Webster on "soundness"

Truth; rectitude; firmness; freedom from error or fallacy; orthodoxy; as soundness of faith.

John 1:47 Behold a true Israelite, in whom there is no guile.

Q: How may we know sin reigneth not?

A: Three ways

1. if we have purpose against it

2. if we have grief for it
3. if we seek for strength against it

How may we keep this truth?

1. by considering the woeful curse that belongeth to the contrary; for God detesteth nothing so as hypocrisy
2. by considering the blessedness of it Psalm 119 Blessed is he whose heart is upright
3. In our common daily duties to labour thus, to perform them:
 - a. with our heart
 - b. as in the sight of God
 - c. to his glory

for this will make the grace of truth to be deeply rooted in us.

a fruit of the Spirit

we must get uprightness of heart for the strengthening of us

such as must make us not only look to the outward duty, but to the inward performance of it

such as must make us seek to glorify God

Ferguson:

the graces of God's Spirit

we must not so precisely distinguish the several pieces, as to think that one may not serve for the use of another; for faith, which answereth to the shield here, is called the breastplate, 1 Thess 5:8. And yet . . . there is some resemblance between every grace, and that piece of the bodily armour to which it is here compared.

not the truth of doctrine, which is included under the sword of the Spirit, the word of God, but the grace of truth or sincerity, whereby a man endeavoureth to be that really, both unto God and man, for which he giveth himself out, 1 John 3:18; and giveth himself out for that to be true, for which the word of truth doth call upon him, Psalm 119:1; which grace goeth frequently under the name of truth

Psalm 51:6

John 4:24

Gurnall:

First, truth of doctrine for the mind

the truth of God, declared in the doctrine of the gospel

against believing false teachers

against recanting under persecution [or other trouble]

Second, truth of heart or sincerity for the will

Christ cannot so well be said to be a single piece to defend this or that part, as the whole in whom we are complete

Some by truth mean truth of doctrine; others will have it truth of heart, sincerity. Those I think right that comprise both. Both indeed are required . . . One will not do without the other.

And in thy waiting on the ministry of the word, be sure thou attendest to the doctrinal part of the sermon, as well as to the application. The former is necessary to make thee a solid Christian, as the other to make thee a warm Christian. Indeed, hot affections without solid knowledge, are but like fire in the pan, when the piece is not charged. Planting goes before watering, and so should teaching before exhorting. And the same method people should learn in, that we are to preach in.

Love observes what is precious and dear to its beloved, and loves it for his sake. Now upon a little search, we shall find that the great God sets a very high price upon the head of truth.

JRY:

Truth shows in the difference between someone who grieves only over being caught, for the sake of disgrace upon himself, and someone who grieves over sinning, for the sake of disgrace upon the name of Christ.

Eadie:

It is useless to seek out the minutiae of far-fetched resemblances, as is done by Gurnall. This is not objective truth, for that is declared to be the sword; but, as the article is wanting, of subjective truth---truthfulness. It is the assured conviction that you believe, and that it is God's truth you believe.

Bengel:

The enemy is to be vanquished by all things contrary to his own nature.

2 Peter 1:5-12 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, (6) to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, (7) to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. (8) For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (9) For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. (10) Therefore, brethren, be even more

diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; (11) for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (12) For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

					2 Peter 1

					faith G4102
					virtue G703
					knowledge G1108
					self-control G1466
					perseverance G5281
					godliness G2150
					brotherly kindness G5360
					love G26

Method of study for each item

Bayne:

1. what is meant by every one
2. what is the use of it
3. how the devil doth labour to disarm us of it
4. howe we may hold our own against him

