

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

The Word is Your Weapon, Ephesians 6:17b

The Sword of the Spirit

Ephesians 6:17 (KJV)⁷ And take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

- Most people knew about the Bible and even owned even before they accepted Jesus as their Savior
- The Bible was in our homes, learned a few scriptures, maybe even received a Bible as a gift
- Having a Bible and *effectively* using it are two different things
- God want us to view the Bible as a spiritual weapon
- As believers we are *to take* or receive the Bible as the *sword* of the Spirit
- Your Bible is an offensive weapon for defeating spiritual enemies
- God makes the sword of the Spirit available to *all believers* the sword of the Spirit
- We are without excuse if we go into battle ill-equipped and ill-prepared
- God has issued to us the sword of the Spirit
- The Roman soldiers in Paul's time carried a sword called a "machaira"
- It was a short sword, only between 12-19 inches long
- It was short so the soldier could fight with precision; gash, gouge, or thrust a specific target
- It was a double-edged sword with the end of the blade turned-up almost like a hook
- It was a very lethal weapon only if it was used properly
- Twice a day the Roman soldiers would practice using their swords
- They would advance to the target, hit the enemy with the sword and then retreat
- They did not use their sword to slash the enemy; they thrust their sword into the enemy
- They wanted to make certain there was no response from the enemy after they thrust in their sword
- Their goal was to immobilize or kill the enemy
- This was not a game; this is war!
- Our sword given to us by the Holy Spirit
- When used properly, it will stop our spiritual enemies where they will not be able to respond after the thrust of our sword of the Spirit!
- The sword is given by the Holy Spirit, because all Scripture is the inspired or God-breathed **2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV) ¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**
- The word of God is beneficial for:
 - Doctrine – teaching of biblical principles for living
 - Reproof – Reveal God's will and the consequences of disobeying God's will
 - Correction – How to correct and repent of our wrongs
 - Instruction in Righteousness - The Bible reveals to us how to live "soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ

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- The sword of the Spirit is a Spirit-given spiritual weapon **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (KJV)** *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: [4] (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) [5] Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*
- Although we are humans that live in fleshly bodies, we don't engage in warfare in fleshly or human ways
- The weapons we have access to are of the Spirit and are mighty through the Spirit of God
- The strongholds or fortresses we are attacking are the imaginations, ideas, thoughts, points of view, lies, or any philosophy, religion, etc. that exalts itself against the knowledge of God
- The truth of God's Word is the only thing that can defeat lies, half-truths, and spiritual error
- The truth of God's word is what we use to bring every thought captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ

The Word of God is Effective in Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:17 (KJV)⁷ And take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

- The Word of God is a defensive *and* offensive weapon
 - We use the word of God as a *defensive* weapon to defend ourselves when we are attacked by the devil in any way
 - We use the word of God as an *offensive* weapon to thrust through and destroy all enemies' attacks and arguments
- The Word of God:
 - is the source of truth **John 17:17 (KJV)¹⁷ Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**
 - is quick (alive) and powerful **Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)¹² For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**
 - does not return void **Isaiah 55:11 (KJV)¹¹ So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**
 - source of spiritual maturity **1 Peter 2:2 (KJV)² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:**
 - source of the blessed life **Luke 11:28 (KJV)²⁸ But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.**

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- source of power **Romans 1:16 (KJV) ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; ...**
- is a guide for us **Psalms 119:105 (KJV) ¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**
- The Holy Spirit *always* acts in harmony with the written word of God
- The devil doesn't like it when the believers know the word of God and know how to use the word of God to fight and defeat him
- There is a difference between owning Bible and knowing the word of God
- One of the things that is important for believers to know is the word is complete, without error, and is the authority of God
- The sword of the Spirit, the Bible becomes *effective* when we:
 - Read the Bible
 - Make a personal decision as a believer to read the Bible every day
 - Become a student of the word **2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) ¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**
 - Develop an appetite for the word
 - Rely on the word in every situation
 - Search the Scriptures to make sure you understand what you are reading
 - Commit the scriptures to memory

The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God

Ephesians 6:17 (KJV)⁷ And take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

- The weapon you defend yourself with *and* attack with is the word of God
- You need a word from God that will address the "specific" attacks of the devil
- In Greek there are two words for the word, "word"
 1. *Logos* - which means word of God in a broad, global and general sense, not in a strategic sense
 2. *Rhema* - means a specific utterance, a specific statement
 - Rhema is a word spoken so clearly that it is unmistakable and undeniable
 - The Rhema word carries with it the connotation of a quick, powerful, and precise word
 - To fight back you must have a *specific word* that you can thrust into the devil when he tries to attack you
 - You need a specific word to rescue and free others

Jesus defeated the devil with the Sword of the Spirit

- *Attack #1 – Temptation for Jesus to Use His Power for Personal Gain*
 - **Matthew 4:3 (KJV) ³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.**

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- The devil wanted Jesus His miraculous powers to supply His ordinary and personal needs at the devil's command
- Jesus *thrust* His sword into the devil by saying, ***"4 ... It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*** (Deuteronomy 8:3)
- The devil did not respond to stabbing power of the sword of the Spirit
- Attack #2 Temptation to Prove Jesus is the Son of God
 - ***5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.***
 - The devil wanted Jesus to prove His Sonship by a special demonstration of God's protection.
 - Jesus thrust His sword into the devil by saying, ***"7It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. (Deuteronomy 6:16)***
 - The devil did not respond to stabbing power of the sword of the Spirit
- Attack #3 Temptation to Worship the devil & Receive What the World Offers
- ***8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.***
 - Why wait until after the cross, you can your glory now
 - The devil said you can have the world without the cross
- Jesus thrust His sword into the devil again, ***"10 ...Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (Deuteronomy 6:13)***
- The devil did not respond to stabbing power of the sword of the Spirit
- Jesus was victorious! ***11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.***
- The devil had to leave because he had been stabbed, and gashed by Jesus thrusting sword of the Spirit to cut down every temptation
- The devil had to leave because he has no power that is greater than the word of God
- The devil had to leave because he had no comeback for the word of God
- The devil had to leave because the word of God neutralizes, extinguishes every plot, every scheme, the devil came up with
- Every time the devil spoke "a word" of temptation to Jesus, the Holy Spirit gave Jesus "the Word" that cut down the temptation
- The same way Jesus used the "rhema" word of God to defeat the devil, you can too!
- Jesus was victorious in the hour temptation because He had practice using His sword

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- *Sword practice* is having the Holy Spirit give you a rhema word, a *specific* scripture to *thrust* into the enemy. That means when:
 - The devil is trying to make you feel faith in God does not work **Mark 11:22-23 (KJV)** ²² *And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.* ²³ *For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*
 - The devil has you afraid to do what God has called you to do **2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)** ⁷ *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*
 - The devil says, “You don’t have to forgive them” **Mark 11:25-26 (KJV)** ²⁵ *And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.* ²⁶ *But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.*
 - The devil wants you to disobey God **Acts 5:29 (KJV)** ²⁹ *Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*
 - The devil fills your mind with nothing but worry **1 Peter 5: 7 (KJV)** ⁷ *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*
 - The devil says this temptation is too powerful for you to resist **1 Corinthians 10:13 (KJV)** ¹³ *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*
 - The devil says living godly is a waste of time; go live it up tonight **Galatians 6:9 (KJV)** ⁹ *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*
 - The devil says, “Go ahead speak mean to them; curse them out, they deserve it after what they did to you” **Colossians 3:8 (KJV)** ⁸ *But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*
 - The devil says no one can help you **Philippians 4:19 (KJV)** ¹⁹ *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*
 - The devil says there’s no hope you’re defeated **2 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV)** ¹⁴ *“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, ...”*
 - The devil wants you to believe he is control and he is winning **1 Corinthians 15:57 (KJV)** ⁵⁷ *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*