

**“THE ARMOR OF GOD” (Part 7)**  
**“...take ...the sword of the Spirit,...” Eph. 6:17b**

**INTRO:** Satan and his army of demons are at war with every follower of Christ. His strategy includes lies and deception to weaken our walk and witness for Christ. Overcoming the evil one is a sign of maturity (1 Jn. 2:14). We must “stand” firm (4 Xs). How? Depend upon His power (v. 10) and dress in His full armor (v. 11).

**REVIEW:** Three pieces we *having on* (fixed to body): belt, breastplate, shoes. Three pieces we *taking up*: shield, helmet. What if Paul wrote . . .?

**TODAY:** v. 17b “take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God”. John Wesley said . . . What kind of a book is it? It CLAIMS to be...

**I. SPECIALNESS OF THE SWORD** – how unique from rest?

- A. Protects the whole not just certain parts, like torso, chest, heart, head, feet.
- B. Offensive as well as a defensive weapon (as is prayer) – dual purpose: repel and attack. Analogy of human army (Bubeck p. 113). . .
- C. Mentioned last for two reasons: because the other pieces are required to properly use the Word, and because even when a believer reaches higher levels of maturity, the Word is still essential.

**II. SPECIFIC NATURE OF THE SWORD**

“take...the sword” – a *machaira* (PIC) sword was not the same as *rhomphaia* sword. Different in: length (6” to 18” vs. 36” to 48”), weight, purpose, preciseness. *Machaira* was a very precise weapon, kept in sheath on soldier’s belt. Best used in close combat. It had both defensive and offensive capabilities. Peter in Garden (Matt. 26:47). He is our sword (Rev. 1:16; 2:12).

**III. SOURCE OF THE SWORD (“of the Spirit”)**

- A. It is *spiritual* in nature (2 Cor. 10:4; Eph. 1:3; 5:19; 6:13) – for supernatural battles. A spiritual one given to every Christian at salvation. Our job is to learn how to use it. Remember sword drills?
- B. It is *provided by* the Spirit – refers to the origin of the sword as the person and power of God’s Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21). The indwelling Holy Spirit is the power, not our strength. Paul clearly identifies the spiritual sword from the Spirit is “the Word of God.” Term for “Word” is not “logos” (Jn. 1:1, 14), but “rhema”, which refers to specific and precise statements verbally spoken. Two illustrations: Toolbox (logos) with specific tools for specific purposes (rhema). Quiver (logos) with arrows (rhema). More later.

**IV. THE STRENGTH OF THE SWORD**

This sword (God’s Word empowered by His Spirit) is the sufficient SOURCE for everything we need: Truth (Jn. 17:17), Joy (Lk. 11:28), Growth (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18), Power (Heb. 4:12), Guidance (Psa. 119:105), Comfort (Rom.

15:4), Maturity (2 Tim. 3:16-17), Victory (Eph. 6:17). What power and strength! Dr. Donald Guthrie said, “The Bible is . . .”

**V. THE SKILLFUL USE OF THE SWORD/APPLICATION**

“How do I effectively use this weapon?” Jesus was Master Swordsman.

- A. SPECIFIC APPLICATION (Matt. 4:1-11) – As Jesus did in battling the seducing temptations of Satan, we must know the sword well enough to use appropriate and specific verses to counter specific temptations. Every fiery dart of the enemy must be met with specific promises verbally spoken against the specific dart. What if your protection was limited to your knowledge of the book of Deuteronomy?
- B. EXAMPLES – What is the spoken and specific sword to attack? I sent email with a list to get you started!
  - 1. Fear (2 Tim. 1:7; Isa. 41:10)
  - 2. Anger (Eph. 4:26-27; Psa. 37:8)
  - 3. Unforgiveness (Matt. 6:14-15; 18:21-22; Eph. 4:31-32; Pro. 17:9)
  - 4. Covetousness (Lk. 12:15; 1 Tim. 6:10; Pro. 11:24)
- C. Study it to know and apply it (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:15; 2 Tim. 4:2) – Read, study, memorize, meditate, USE!

**CONC:** This sword (God’s Word) is a powerful *offensive* weapon. Satan knows this. He does all he can to keep us from it (busyness, distractions, etc.). Look at Matt. 13 – he snatches, distorts (Adam and Eve), etc.

Each piece of armor reminds us that our hope for victory rests in the character of God: Behind the *belt* of truth is the God of truth. Behind the *breastplate* of righteousness is our God of righteousness. Behind the *shoes* of the gospel of peace stands the God of peace. Behind the *shield* of faith stands our faithful God. Behind the *helmet* of salvation is the God of our salvation. Behind the *Word* of God stands the God of the Word!

**ILLUS:** Are you a butterfly, botanist, or bee? Let’s strive hard to be a bee!