

**THE BEST DEFENSE IS A GOOD OFFENSE**

**That's** what we're **going to SEE** today

**We're** in the **13th week** of our series on **The Spiritual Battle**

We're **NEAR** the **END** - & we've got to **REALLY**  
**FOCUS** on these **last** couple **Msg's**

**Today** we look at the **All-Encompassing – All-Inclusive**  
**OFFENSIVE WEAPON** for our **Spiritual Battle**

**In the Spiritual Battle:**

- Some **Christians** walk around with **NO WEAPON**
- Some **Christians** walk around with a **Weapon** – But **NO AMMO**
- Some **Christians** have their **Weapon** & **some Ammo** –  
But **NO IDEA** How to **USE IT**

Guys - We have **GOT** to **STOP** gettin **WHOOPED**  
**So EASILY** by the **Enemy**

**We've GOT to start puttin on the WHOLE ARMOR of God**  
& **Learning** how to **STAND FIRM**  
against the **Schemes & Tactics** of Our Enemy

**In order** to do that – we've **got** to get a **Better Understanding**  
& **Develop** a **Better Use**

Of the **6th article** of our **Spiritual Armor**  
The **SWORD OF THE SPIRIT** – Which is the Word of God

Are you **READY** for it?? - - **Let's Pray**

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**In our study** so far - we've **gotten** thru **ALL** the "**So Called**"  
**DEFENSIVE** Articles of the **ARMOR**

Let's just **Read thru** them as we **lead** up to  
**The Sword of the Spirit**

**Ephesians 6:13–17 (NLT)**

***13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.***

***14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness.***

***15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.***

***16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.***

***17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and (for today) take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.***

**That's IT – SIX Articles of the Spiritual Armor**

that will **GUARANTEE** that we  
Walk in **VICTORY** in the Spiritual Battle

& the **SWORD of the Spirit** is the Weapon  
that **TIES THEM ALL TOGETHER** - [REPEAT]

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If you've **been around** awhile – You've **heard somebody**  
**TEACH** this section of Scripture

& you've **probably** heard them **POINT OUT** that  
the **Sword of the Spirit** is the **ONLY Offensive Weapon**

& **I Understand why** Most Bible Teachers **Say That**

**Because** our **Focus** Here is So Often – **MORE** on the **Roman Soldier**  
**than it is** on the **TRUTHS** of the **Spiritual Armor**

**IF** we are **primarily focused** on:

**BELT** – **BREASTPLATE** – **SHOES** – **SHIELD** – **HELMET** . . .

**Then** we would **naturally** say **those things** are all **DEFENSIVE**

& **then** we come to the **SWORD** - & we **think of a SWORD** -  
& **that** is an **OFFENSIVE WEAPON**

& so **we get** this idea of **5 Articles of DEFENSE**  
& **ONE Article of OFFENSE**

**BECAUSE** we are thinking **MORE** about the **Roman Soldier**  
**than we are** about the **TRUTHS** being **Taught**

We **Often** Make **FAR TOO MUCH** of the **METAPHOR**  
of the Roman Soldier

& **Not NEAR ENOUGH** of the **TRUTHS**  
the **Holy Spirit** is **TEACHING** here

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So - **If I talk** to you about **Living** in:

**TRUTH** – **RIGHTEOUSNESS** – **PEACE** – **FAITH** – **SALVATION**

**Those truths don't sound** as much like **DEFENSIVE** Weapons  
as their "**Associated Metaphors**" of the **Roman Soldier**

**& I believe** These **Spiritual Armor Truths** - are **ALL OFFENSIVE**

**If You want to TAKE it TO the Enemy:**

Start **Living** in God's **TRUTH**

Start **Walking** in God's **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Start **Resting** in God's **PEACE**

Start **Making Choices** in **FAITH**

& Start **Protecting & Directing** Your **MIND** with your **SALVATION**

**If You want to put an OFFENSIVE HURT**  
**on Your Spiritual Enemy?**

**Then Take** the Battle **TO HIM**

**By Living** in these **5 Great OFFENSIVE** Truths

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**NOW** - The **Sword Of The Spirit** – Which Is **The Word Of God**  
Is **THE OFFENSIVE WEAPON** – that **Guarantees** our **VICTORY**

But the **Word of God** is **NOT** separated  
**from** the other **Five Articles** of Armor

In Fact - **The Word** of God is **CRUCIAL & FOUNDATIONAL**  
in **EVERY ARTICLE** of the **Spiritual Armor**

In our **Last 2 Msg's** RE: **Protecting & Directing the Mind** – we said:  
The **MIND** has a **ROLE** in **EVERY Article** of The **Spiritual Armor**

**Well – In a Similar & FAR GREATER WAY – The Word of God**  
has a **CRUCIAL & FOUNDATIONAL** Role  
in **Every Article** of the **Spiritual Armor**

<p><b>The Word of God is <u>THE</u> Great Offensive Component in EACH of the Articles of Armor</b></p>
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& **IF** we **will grasp** the **CRUCIAL & FOUNDATIONAL** Role  
The **Word of God** plays in **EVERY ONE** of the **Articles of Armor**

Then we will **better understand** the phrase  
**"The Best Defense is a GOOD OFFENSE"**

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**WHAT** does that **even mean** – **The Best Defense is a Good Offense**

Well – **When in Doubt** – Turn to **WIKIPEDIA**, Right?

**WIKIPEDIA – "The Best Defense is a Good Offense":**

*The idea is that strong offensive action will preoccupy the opposition and ultimately hinder its ability to mount an opposing counterattack, leading to a strategic advantage.*

**If** we will **learn to use** the **OFFENSIVE** weapon of **the Word of God** –  
as the **Foundation** for **every Article of Armor**

We will **Ultimately ELIMINATE** the **Enemy's ability** to **Mount**  
an **OPPOSING** Attack - in **any of these areas** of our lives

The **Offensive Weapon** of the **Word of God** – is the **CRUCIAL**  
**FOUNDATION** of **EVERY Defensive Article** of the Armor

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- V.14 - We Put On **TRUTH** in our lives – **THRU** the **Word of God**
- V.14 - We Put On **PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS** in our lives –  
**THRU** the **Word of God**
- V.15 - The **PEACE** of God comes **THRU** the **Word of God**
- V.16 - **FAITH** comes **THRU** the **Word of God**
- V.17 - Protecting our **MIND** with our Salvation  
Comes **THRU** the **Word of God**

## **The Best Defense – is a Good Offense**

& if we **will learn** to **OFFENSIVELY** Use **The Word of God**  
in **EACH** of these **Areas** of the **Spiritual Armor**

**Then** we will **Continue to Walk** in the **Victory**  
**that** we have **Positionally** in **Jesus Christ** - - - **AMEN?**

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**So – The Sword of the Spirit - which is the Word of God**  
Is the **OFFENSIVE WEAPON** that is at the **CENTER**  
of **EVERY** other Article of our **Spiritual Armor**

***So . . . Let's TALK a little bit about it***

**FIRST** – **Let's talk** about what it is **NOT**

**This** is the **Sword of the SPIRIT** – It's **NOT YOUR Sword . . .**  
**You** - Don't **HAVE** a Sword

One **HUGE** Reason we are **LOSING Battle after Battle**  
in the **Spiritual Realm**

is **because** we are **TRYING** to use **Some OTHER Sword**  
**INSTEAD** of the **Sword of the Spirit**

**For Example - HOW OFTEN** do we try to **battle the attacks**  
of the **enemy** - with our **OWN IDEAS**, & Our **OWN LOGIC**

**Worse Yet – HOW OFTEN** do we try to **fight the attacks** of  
the **Enemy** - with **SOMEONE ELSE'S OPINIONS** or **IDEAS**

**This is NOT the Sword of OPRAH – or DR PHIL –**  
**OR** your **FRIEND** at the **Bible Study** who's **constantly**  
**telling** you what **THEY THINK** you **ought to do**

**NONE** of those **people** have a **Sword** – **ONLY** The **Holy Spirit**  
Has a **SWORD** - & that Sword is **The WORD of GOD**

Yet we **CLING** to (& Trust In) Our **OWN Opinions & Ideas** –  
or **SOMEONE** else's **Opinions & Ideas**  
to try to **Fight** the Spiritual Battle

& then we **BLAME GOD** when **We Don't Have** any **VICTORY**

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**Listen to me PLEASE** - God **DOES NOT Support**  
**YOUR Approach** in the **Spiritual Battle**

**God Does NOT Support**  
your **FRIEND'S Approach** in the **Spiritual Battle**

& **if** you **try to fight** the **Spiritual Battle** Your **OWN** Way  
you can **FORGET** about **Experiencing ANY Victory** At All

The **ONLY Weapon** that will **Stand Up** to this **Enemy**

The **ONLY Weapon** that is the **Crucial Foundation** for **ALL** the Armor

**Is the Sword of The Spirit – Which is the WORD of GOD**

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If **we want ANY Victory** in the **Spiritual Battle**

We **Must Align Ourselves** with **God's Battle Plan** – **NOT our OWN**  
& We **Must SUBMIT** to **God's Way** – **NOT our OWN**

& **God's Battle PLAN** - & **God's WAY**  
is **Laid Out** for us in **God's WORD**

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**GUYS** - If we **would** just **BEGIN** to **GRASP** – **AND USE**  
**SOME** of The **POWER** there is **IN GOD'S WORD**

It would **Radically CHANGE** – The **Numbers** in our  
**Win/Loss Column** in the **Spiritual Battle**

But – To **DO THAT** - we **have to learn**  
**how** to actually **USE** the **Word of God**

You know – it is **VERY DANGEROUS** to give someone a **Weapon**  
**without teaching** them **HOW** to **Use it**

**Because** their Enemy will just **TAKE** that **WEAPON** From them  
& **use it AGAINST THEM**

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The **1st time** we see that **done** in **Scripture** – is in **Gen Ch 3**

in the **Garden of Eden** - The Devil **TOOK God's Word** –  
& **TWISTED** it - & used it **AGAINST** Adam & Eve

The **Devil TRIED** to **Take God's Word** from **Jesus** Himself  
in the **temptation in the wilderness**

& he **tried** to **TWIST God's Word** to **Use it** against **Jesus** Himself

& we **see all the time** - The **Devil** get great **Victories today**  
by **getting** people to **TWIST God's Word**  
& **use** it to **promote Hell's Agenda**

So – **We** must **“TAKE UP the Sword of The Spirit”** – AND . . .  
**We** must **“LEARN How to USE The Sword of The Spirit”**

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There is a **GREAT LESSON** – In How to **USE God’s Word**

**Wrapped** up in the **THREE GREEK WORDS**  
used in the N.T. - For “The Word of God”

& I **appreciate** **TONY EVANS** pointing out this **great Word Study**

& I **wanted** to **really develop** it here -

**But I have** to just **SUMMARIZE** it for **time’s sake** - - *so here it is*

We Must **LEARN** the **Written Word**

We Must **KNOW** the **Living Word**

We Must **USE** the **Spoken Word** - - [REPEAT]

**There** are **THREE Greek Words** in the N.T.

**That** are **used** for “**The Word of God**”

**GRAPHE** – The **Written Word**

**LOGOS** – The **Living Word**

**RHEMA** – The **Spoken Word**

*Again . . .*

**We** Must **LEARN** the **Written Word**

**We** Must **KNOW** the **Living Word**

**We** Must **USE** the **Spoken Word**

The **Written Word** (**GRAPHE**) is used in

**2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)** → →

## **2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)**

***16 All Scripture (graphe) is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,***

That is **GRAPHE** (The Written Word)

& We've **GOT** to **LEARN** the **Written Word** – if we are going to **USE** it as an **OFFENSIVE Weapon** against the **ENEMY**

The **GRAPHE** (Written Word) is the Foundation (**BASIS**) for **USING** the **SWORD of The Spirit**

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Next is **LOGOS** – The Living Word

## **John 1:1 & 14 (ESV)**

***1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.***

...

***14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us . . .***

The **LIVING Word** is Jesus Christ

Here's a **Cool INSIGHT** – In that Famous Vs – **Heb 4:12**

## **Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)**

***12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit . . .***

**GUESS** which Greek Word is **USED** For "**The Word of God**" Here **LOGOS** – The **LIVING** Word of God

So - **AS** we **LEARN** the Written Word

We Must **Grow** in our **RELATIONAL KNOWLEDGE**  
of The **LIVING Word** (Jesus Christ)

Because (Listen Closely)

The **Written Word** is **ONLY Powerful**  
when used in the **AUTHORITY** of the **LIVING Word** - - (repeat)

We **LEARN** the **Written Word** (**Graphe**)

We **KNOW** the **Living Word** (**Logos**) – which gives us the **Authority**

& **then** we can **USE** the **SPOKEN WORD** (**Rhema**)

**BUT - The RHEMA (Spoken Word) Can ONLY Be used**

In **True Accordance** with the **Written Word** - &

In the **True Authority** of the **Living Word**

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So – our **Key Vs** says

**Ephesians 6:17 (ESV)**

*17 and take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,*

**GUESS** which **Greek Word** is used here for “**The Word of God**”?

It is **RHEMA** – The **SPOKEN WORD** of God

**TAKE UP** the **SPOKEN WORD OF GOD** as the **Sword of the Spirit**  
which will **Absolutely DECIMATE** your **Spiritual Enemy**

**You see** – the **Written Word** - & the **Living Word**  
Are the **Foundation** to **ALL** the **Articles of the Armor**  
& the **SPOKEN WORD** is the **Sword of the Spirit**  
Which **takes out your enemy** at the knees

But it **ONLY** takes him out – in **ACCORDANCE** with the **Written Word**  
**AND** in the **AUTHORITY** of the **LIVING Word**

*Is that COOL or what?*

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**Let me say it again:**

- You **USE** God's **Written Word** –
- You **USE IT** in the **AUTHORITY** that comes from  
you being **IDENTIFIED** with the Living Word
- & You **SPEAK IT** – IN that Authority – **to the Enemy**

& **when** you **DO THAT** – You will be **Victorious** in the **Spiritual Battle**  
& your **Enemy** will **continue** to be **DEFEATED** in your life

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**TO CLOSE** - Let's see **how Jesus did it**  
& then **we'll just do it** like that

**Turn** over to **Mat Ch 4** – (*using ESV to make an important point*)

**Just after his Baptism (where we were baptized)**

After the **Heavens** had opened up  
& the **Holy Spirit** had descended upon Him  
& the **Father Spoken** His approval from Heaven

**The first word in Matthew 4:1 is (ESV)**

***1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.***

**Matthew 4:2–3 (ESV)**

***2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.  
3 And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”***

Jesus was **100% Man - 100% God**

But here he was **110% Hungry**

After **40 days** of **no food** you can **easily** be at the **point** of **DEATH**

& it was **THEN** – **When Jesus** was at his **very weakest**  
that the **Tempter** (Satan) **came to him** & said . . .

***IF you are the Son of Man***

This **IF** - is **like** us saying “**IF INDEED**” – Or even “**SINCE**”  
It’s **spoken as a challenge** from the Devil

***IF INDEED you ARE the Son of God - command these stones  
to become loaves of bread***

**Satan** uses a **VERY REAL NEED** in Jesus Life  
to **try to get him** to **Take** a Path **CONTRARY** to God’s Plan

But **Jesus answered** Satan with the **exact words**  
**that** we must **Answer him** with

**In Matthew 4:4 (ESV)**

***4 But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”***

## IT – IS – WRITTEN

That's the word GRAPHE – Jesus stands on the Written Word Spoken with the Authority of the Son of God – the LOGOS

& he SPEAKS the Word of God TO the ENEMY  
That is The RHEMA

& the Devil – BACKS DOWN

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But That's only Strike ONE

Now the Devil's Gonna actually USE the Word of God  
to Try to GET Jesus to SIN

TWISTING The Word of God – is the Devil's TOOL

Correctly USING The Word of God – is our Weapon of Victory

Cont'g - Matthew 4:5–6 (ESV)

*5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple*

*6 and said to him, “If (if indeed, or since) you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”*

Not only did the Devil USE the Word of God –

He quoted it accurately (meaning he knows it well)

He quoted it ACCURATELY – But he didn't quote it CORRECTLY

**YES** – that **IS** what **PSA 91** says - But that **doesn't mean** we **should do stupid stuff** & expect **God** to protect us

**& so Jesus answers in Matthew 4:7 (ESV)**

**7 Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”**

**AGAIN: IT - IS - WRITTEN**

**Using the **GRAPHE** - (written Word)**

**With the Authority of the **LOGOS** - (Living Word)**

**& Speaking it as the **RHEMA** - (Spoken Word)**

**The WORD of God – TRIPLE FORGED into an Unbeatable WEAPON against your Spiritual Enemy**

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**But still – the Enemy isn't Finished with Jesus – That's only **TWO STRIKES****

**& so we cont in Matthew 4:8–9 (ESV)**

**8 *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.***

**9 *And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”***

**First of all – in this temptation – WHO IS IT that has the “Right” to Give all the Kingdoms of the world to Jesus?? (Satan)**

**Satan controls the Kingdoms of this world - & their Glory**

**So – if THAT is what you're chasing – Make NOTE of this**

**Satan tries to get Jesus to give him what Satan's always wanted WORSHIP that is due only to God**

& that is **EXACTLY** what **Satan** is trying to  
**TRICK YOU** into **doing as Well**

**Don't FALL** For It

**Speak to Satan** the **Exact Words** Jesus **spoke** to him in

**Matthew 4:10 (ESV)**

***10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,*  
***" 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.' "*****

**FOR IT IS WRITTEN**

The **GRAPHE** (*Written Word*)

With the **Authority** of the **LOGOS** (*Living Word*)

**Spoken** as the **RHEMA** (*Spoken Word*)

**The Triple Forged Power - of the Word of God**

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We have **been Given** – an **Unbeatable WEAPON**

To **STAND** against the **Enemy** - & to **DEFEAT** Him

**YOU HAVE** This Victory - **Already Guaranteed** in **Jesus Christ**

**WHY Don't we USE IT ???**

**Because** we're **LAZY** ?

**Because** we **don't KNOW** God's **WORD** ?

**Because** we **Trust Someone** else's **OPINION** More than God's Word?

Or **because** we just don't **LIKE** what God's Word **SAYS** ?

Guys – **We've GOT** to get over this

**ALL of the Spiritual ARMOR** is **BASED** on **God's Word**

& you can **put it ALL ON** – **THRU God's WORD**



**SO THAT** when **the Enemy comes** at you  
**YOU** can **Respond** the **Same way Jesus** Did

**IT – IS – WRITTEN !!! - - - - BE GONE SATAN . . .**

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**ALL** We have to **DO** – Is **LEARN HOW** to **USE** the **WEAPON**

**The WEAPON** is

***The Sword of the Spirit – Which is the WORD of God***

In it's **GRAPHE** Form – **The Written Word**

With the **Authority** of its **LOGOS** Form – **The Living Word**

**Spoken** to the Enemy in its **RHEMA** Form – **The Spoken Word**

& **BAAM** – You **WILL STAND** Against **ALL** the **attacks** of the **Enemy**

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**So – HERE is what I want you - TO DO**

I'm **gonna** give you some **RESOURCES** to **Begin**  
actually **USING God's WORD** in your **Spiritual Battle**

**Cause** we have **GOT** to start **DOING Something**  
**about** the Enemy just **Whoopin Us** all the time

So – I **want you** to **WRITE 3 things Down**  
to start **USING** God's **WORD MORE** in your life

**1) Get OUR Phone App** – Search **wordbymail**

Look under – “**Scripture By Topic**”

**2) Get the YouVersion Bible App**

& practice using the SEARCH Function

**3) Get the GotQuestions App**

& practice searching key words and questions

If you **don't have** a Smart **Phone** – you can **get all** of this  
on the **computer** as well (at the websites)

**OR – Just come TALK to US**

We **Want** to **HELP YOU Learn** - How to **Actually USE**  
the **Sword of the Spirit** - in **Your Spiritual Battle**

**Let's Pray**