

# The Full Armour of God – Sharpening The Sword

**Last week:** : Pastor Wilfred shared with us the areas which make the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God dull and blunt in us which makes us unprepared

## INTRODUCTION

- Hebrews 5:11-14 challenges believers who had been Christians long enough that they should have been teachers, yet they still needed someone to teach them the basic truths of God's Word.
- The problem was not that they lacked opportunity. The problem was that they had stopped growing.
- The writer gives us three important truths

Not learning or growing in our faith and the knowledge of our faith gives us problems in our effectiveness for God and a lacklustre faith in Jesus whom we claim follow.

TITLE:  
SHARPENING  
THE SWORD.

- I. THE DANGER OF BECOMING HARD TO SHARPEN.
- II. THE TRAGEDY OF REMAINING SPIRITUAL INFANTS.
- III. THE MARK OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY.

So here lies a Danger, Stunted spiritual growth, but as is always true of God, a solution. These are the three areas we need to focus on to become effective.

## APPLICATION

- "THE MORE WE KNOW AND PRACTICE SCRIPTURE, THE BETTER EQUIPPED WE BECOME TO DISCERN WHAT IS RIGHT."

The duller our sword, the weaker we are and the less effective we are for Jesus

## CONCLUSION

- 1. A WARNING- You have become dull of hearing.
- \*Don't become spiritually insensitive.
- 2. AN EXPECTATION- By this time you ought to be teachers.
- \*God expects spiritual growth.
- 3. A PROBLEM-"You still need milk, not solid food."
- \*Don't remain spiritually immature, Let's move forward to maturity.

## CONCLUSION

- GOD DOES NOT WANT US TO REMAIN SPIRITUAL INFANTS. HE WANTS US TO GROW, BECOME DISCERNING, BECOME USEFUL, AND EVENTUALLY BECOME PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP OTHERS GROW. THAT'S HOW WE CAN SHARPENING OUR SWORD.

# THE AUTHORITY OF THE SWORD

**Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.**

As we are still examining the Sword of the Spirit as our subject today some of the teaching will be similar albeit a slightly different context. As we mention regularly here, more of the same can turn out to be radically different!

1. The Word of God is Living.
2. The Word of God is Active.
3. The Word of God is Sharper than a Sword.
4. The Word of God Penetrates the Inner Person.

**Overview:** To understand what Hebrews 4:12 means, we must reflect on the central theme: **the word of God and how it impacts our lives.** The verse teaches us that God's word is not just a collection of ancient texts but is alive and active today.

It serves as a powerful tool to examine our hearts, thoughts, and behaviours. The picture of a double-edged sword illustrates the accuracy and effectiveness of Scripture as it pierces deep within us.

When we read the Word of God, we should not just go through the motions; rather, we should expect it to test us and transform our lives.

When we read Scripture, we are invited to engage deeply and allow it to penetrate the core of our being. This truth encourages accountability and humbles us before God. We can live sincerely when we recognize that nothing is hidden from His sight.

As we ponder the line about the words **“it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart”** we are actively challenged to reflect on our motivations. Our **intentions** often drive our actions, and they can be riddled with self-interest, yet God’s word illuminates our path, helping us seek clarity.

# 1. The Word of God is Living. “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword ...

In this passage, *Word of God* refers to His revelation in a general sense, meaning any method God uses to communicate with us. Our primary exposure is through His written Word, the Bible. We learn in Scripture that the Word of God is *alive* and *active* - it not only lives but works in us.

**2 Corinthians 3:3 You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.**

Jesus compared God's Word to seeds **Matthew 13:8. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop - a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.**

Seed, like the Word, is a living organism that, when spread and planted in fertile soil, produces abundant life.

**1. The Word of God is Active** The active nature of God's Word is evident from the very beginning of the Bible. In Genesis 1, God speaks creation into existence, demonstrating the creative power of His Word.

**Genesis 1:3 "And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.".** This creative act underscores the authority and effectiveness of God's active spoken Word.

The Gospel of John confirms this in Jesus and starts with ... **The Word Became Flesh. John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** Along with Genesis 1:3 these are some the most affirming aspects of God in action.

Astonishing, life-generating things happen when God's Word goes onwards. It is fully capable of accomplishing its purpose:

**Isaiah 55:11, NLT “so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”.**

God's Word is alive because it is perennially original. In every generation, to every person who picks it up, the Bible is living and fresh.

When the Word of God is truly heard and sincerely received into a heart that has been prepared by God, that Word, hastened by the Holy Spirit, becomes a spiritual seed that is the germ of a new creation that is in us by the Spirit. It springs into life by forming the hearer who believes that Word, a son or daughter of God.

**2.The Word of God is Sharper than a Sword.** The author of Hebrews described the Word of God as “sharper than any double-edged sword.” Paul called it “... **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**” (Ephesians 6:17).

This sword imagery also appears in **Isaiah 49:2, Revelation 1:16, and Revelation 2:12**. As a sharp, double-bladed sword, the Word of God is our definitive offensive weapon against the assaults of a spiritual enemy.

When Satan tempted our Lord in the wilderness, Jesus wielded the sword of God’s Word to counter the devil’s attacks.

**Matthew 4:4. Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God’”** His example teaches us to do the same.

We see Jesus, the Living Word, exercising the power of the **spoken word**. In **Matthew 8**, Jesus met a centurion worried about his sick servant. Jesus offered to come to the centurion's house, but the centurion thought he was not worthy enough for Jesus to do that.

As a result, Jesus' spoken word healed his servant. The good news is that Jesus still speaks, and if you have a situation, you can ask Jesus to speak into it because the word of God is still living and active.

Our second example is much earlier in biblical history ...

It is not just the spoken word of God that is living and active. His **written and spoken word** is too. In **2 Kings 22**, we find the story of Josiah, the king of Judah. During his reign, they were repairing the temple and found the book of the Law, which is the written word of God.

When they found it, his secretary Shaphan read from the book of the Law to Josiah.

His immediate response to hearing the word of God was he wept and tore his clothes.

He mourned over his spiritual condition and the condition of the people of Judah because they had neglected to do what was written in God's word.

**3. The Word of God Penetrates the Inner Person** The verse goes on to describe the Word's capacity to **"penetrate even to dividing soul and spirit, joints, and marrow."**

This portrays the Word's ability to reach the deepest recesses of our being. It addresses the innermost aspects of our lives, separating what is of the spirit from what is of the flesh. The Word convicts, cleanses, and sanctifies, leading to spiritual growth and maturity.

Hebrews 4:12 concludes by stating that the Word **"judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."** God's Word serves as a spiritual mirror, reflecting our true selves before Him.

**Application** I want to leave you with a mandate that the apostle Paul gave to Timothy.

**2 Timothy 4:2-4 “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths**

Preach the word. Paul can make such a statement because he recognizes that the word of God has **authority**. It can still cut through people's hearts and accomplish what it set out to do.

Preaching the word in this context is not the formal term 'to preach', but rather a more everyday affair. Sharing the Gospel, helping others in need, offering the hand of friendship and hospitality to those outside your general circle.

**Showing Jesus in your life** to others that often prompt the question why? Why are you helping me? Well – you are never going to get a better invitation than that to share the answer – the Gospel of Jesus Christ in love and in grace. Amen!

## Conclusion 1a

I mentioned in section 3 the sword was also referenced in Isaiah and Revelation.

The Apostle John shows In Rev 1:14-16 a word picture of Jesus, with hair white like snow, eyes like fire, a voice like rushing water, in his hand seven stars, **coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword**. His face was like the sun shining.



## Conclusion 1b

As a younger Christian I could relate to all of that except for the sword coming from His mouth.

There was no way I could balance the words with any picture in my mind. Now of course its obvious. A sword coming out of the mouth may sound strange but relating it all to the Word of God makes sense. Do you understand?

If the armour of God is our protection and encouragement, then the sword is the mouthpiece spreading Gods warnings, love grace and mercy in equal measure to all, who in faith, attend to its knowledge and power.

The armour of God in not an ornament to stand in a hall. If you see a hole in a wall, you will fill it. The armour of God has the capability to fill the hole in a person's life – Yours or someone else's. AMEN