

The Full Armor of God

Part 4—The Sword of the Lord and the Captive Set Free

Ephesians 6:11—¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. (NIV)

1. The Offensive Weapon: The Sword of the Spirit.

- While most pieces of the armor described in Ephesians 6 are _____
 - The final piece is distinctly _____

*Ephesians 6:17b—¹⁷[take up] the sword of the Spirit, which is the word [Greek: *Rhema* (ῥῆμα)] of God. (ESV)*

- This “sword” is not a _____ book on a shelf but a _____, _____ weapon

Luke 1:38—³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word [Rhema (ῥῆμα)].” And the angel departed from her. (NASB1995)

- The Sword of the Spirit is a portion of the *Logos* that is quickened or highlighted by the _____ in a _____
- In short, *Logos* is the _____, and *Rhema* is when a _____ comes alive to meet a personal need
- The Sword of the Spirit is the tool God has given you to actively _____ against the lies of the enemy and to _____ those held in spiritual bondage

2. The Nature of Spiritual Captivity.

- Spiritual captivity can manifest in numerous ways:
 - _____
 - These are _____, _____ sins that a believer _____ to overcome, feeling _____ to a particular pattern of behavior

*Hebrews 12:1b—¹. . . let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [Greek: *euperistatos* (ἐνπεριστατός)] us . . . (KJV)*

- Basically, a besetting sin is one that we _____ struggle with and toward which we are _____
- _____
- This includes plaguing thoughts, anxieties, fears, or accusations that create a state of constant inner _____ and rob the believer of _____

John 14:27—²⁷Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. (NASB1995)

John 16:33—³³“I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble and suffering but take courage—I have conquered the world.” (NET)

2 Timothy 1:7—⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (NLT)

- _____
- And here, spiritual enslavement (or _____) is a deeper state of captivity where an individual is _____ of spiritual forces
- Spiritual enslavement can _____ an individual's _____

John 10:10—¹⁰The thief's [Satan's] purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My [Jesus'] purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. (NLT)

3. Wielding the Sword.

- Six steps:
 - _____ the enemy
 - _____ the problem
 - _____ true joy

Hebrews 12:2—²Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NASB1995)

- _____ of the way
- _____ in active praise

Hebrews 13:14-16—¹⁴For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come.

¹⁵Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. ¹⁶And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need.

These are the sacrifices that please God. (NLT)

1 Corinthians 15:57—⁵⁷Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (NASB1995)

- _____ the answer by faith

2 Corinthians 1:20-22—²⁰For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. ²¹Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²²set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (NIV)

4. The Core of Warfare: Persistent Prayer.

Ephesians 6:18—¹⁸In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out. (MSG)

- We are to maintain _____ communication with God in all circumstances for _____ and _____
- Prayer is the _____ that enables us to _____, _____, and _____ victory

Action Step . . .

- Attend 2nd Base—Discovering Spiritual Maturity