

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 6:10-18 (KJV)

- ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.
¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Remember a few things with this warfare:

- **WE ARE AT WAR** - it isn't a war of natural means or happening in this realm to take things or people from you, this war is about your faith and is going on for you to give up on God
- **WE HAVE AN ENEMY** - the bible calls him the devil and the enemy of our soul. He hates us and desires to steal, kill, and destroy your faith with whatever means he can.
- **HE HAS A STRUCTURE** - found in this passage, it is a structure comprised of fallen angels and demon spirits and they do whatever they can to bring discouragement and stand in the way of the plan and will of God.
- **WE ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE** - we are to engage our enemy but the fight is the part that must be done correctly. We show up, God will show off.

Let me brush you up on the other pieces and then we will address this one:

- **The Helmet of Salvation** - this is the protection of the mind and the engagement of the thought life
- **The Breastplate of Righteousness** - this is the creation of protection of proper desires in the heart
- **The Loins Girt with Truth** - this is the replication of Christians and discipleship of them as well. As you help them fight their battles, yours are waged by God.
- **Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace** - this is the witness that we give others as a Christians. What others see from us is what they expect of God.
- **The Shield of Faith** - this is utilized by a believer going to God in everything and for everything. In doing so, they will find that every attempt of the enemy to bring harm will be blocked by the Lord.

Tonight, we will look at THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT.

This particular article, the sword, is not left to wonder how it is utilized and you don't have to draw out meaning for it, the scriptures reveal their meaning and describe this as the Word of God. So, with that being the case, we can jump right into the use of the Word of God as it pertains to spiritual warfare.

THE SWORD

To the soldier known it the day this was written, the sword offered unique benefits.

- **It was two-edged** - so no matter what direction it was swung, it would cut
- **It was pointed** - so a direct thrust would damage as well
- **It was durable** - it was lightweight and made of durable metal so it could be used against another weapon. Where many weapons, (spear, halberd, etc.) had wood implemented into the construction, this was a solid metal weapon forged to last and endure anything

And with the sword of the Spirit, these parts aren't applicable, but comparing them to the Word of God, they fit.

Scripture uses many references to a sword and its use spiritually:

Genesis 3:24 (KJV)

²⁴ So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

When Adam and Eve were removed from the garden, there were angels and a "flaming sword" placed at the entrance to keep anyone out.

Numbers 22:23 (KJV)

²³ And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way.

Joshua 5:13 (KJV)

¹³ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, *Art* thou for us, or for our adversaries?

1 Chronicles 21:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders *of Israel, who were* clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.

Here are three examples of angels seen wielding a sword to carry out the will of God.

Isaiah 49:2 (KJV)

² And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

Revelation 1:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength.

Revelation 2:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Revelation 19:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Here we see a sword spoken of, but coming out of the mouth of the one using it. And we know that a literal sword was not what was coming out of the mouth, this was the Word of God.

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 discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

And of course, this passage is known very well and shows a direct connection to the sword and the Word of God.

THE USE OF THE WORD OF GOD IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

But with this established, how it utilized properly, as we are told to take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, during spiritual warfare, and we are given a great example of this in scripture:

Luke 4:1-13 (KJV)

¹ And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

² Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

³ And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

⁴ And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

⁵ And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

⁶ And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.
⁷ If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.
⁸ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.
⁹ And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:
¹⁰ For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:
¹¹ And in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.
¹² And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.
¹³ And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

The sword of the Spirit was utilized here in a powerful means and we see how.

With each temptation that the enemy brought, while Christ was at a vulnerable state physically and mentally while fasting, notice the way in which Jesus replied:

- vs 4 - It is written
- vs 8 - It is written
- vs 12 - It is said, or written

With every attempt, a passage of scripture was used.

So, something is shown to us about spiritual warfare here: **Our "taking up the sword" is to meet every situation presented to us with an applicable passage of scripture, in context, mind you, to attack our enemy.**

It's really a counterattack if you get right down to it. He moves, we move. But our move is based off what the Word really says.

Listen to this: **If all you ever do is make sure all the pieces of the armor are in place but never take up your sword, then you'll continually be hit by non-stop attacks without ever fending your enemy off.**

And this is the case with many in church right now. **They learn the thought life battle, they learn to protect their desires, they understand prayer, they live right and they witness, but they still have no concept of the Word of God being their means of warfare.**

So, they do what it says to stand and they just take beating after beating after beating and they get worn down. Keep in mind with spiritual warfare that you win a battle at a time and these battles will continue until we leave this earth. So, fight, but fight the right way.

It is one thing to use the Word to establish your faith, that is what it takes to keep your thought life and heart where they should be, but it is another thing to learn this word, hide it in your heart, and be able to come right back with something at that moment.

That is when this word is alive and powerful.

So, do you prepare yourself according to what you are facing?

Do you dig up answers that you don't have?

Do you look for the right use of scripture in critical moments?

But this word must be used properly also.

- A sword that hits something that it's not supposed to, damages it and whatever it hits
- A sword simply swung into the air is a waste of time
- A sword that hits the wrong person or thing still brings harm and damage

So be careful with this Word and use it properly when needed. Remember that is the sword of the SPIRIT. **This shows that it is the position of the Holy Spirit to choose what to do with the sword but it our responsibility to engage the battle and find the proper use of the sword.**

So, is the Word really what we can lean on?

John 1:1 (KJV)

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

Psalms 33:4 (KJV)

⁴ For the word of the LORD *is* right; and all his works *are done* in truth.

John 17:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (KJV)

¹³ For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

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:

Matthew 24:35 (KJV)

³⁵ Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Isaiah 40:8 (KJV)

⁸ The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Psalms 138:2 (KJV)

² I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

I can read this and see the validity of the Word of God as being from God and how important it is to us.

And just to add to it, here are a few more thoughts on the Bible itself (put together by Finis Dake):

- **Its wonderful unity.** Over 40 authors wrote 66 books in different lands and over a period of 1,800 years. Many never saw the writing of the others and yet there is no contradiction between any two of them. Collect any group of books by any other 40 men on any subject and see if they agree.
- **Its superiority to other books in its origin, formation, doctrines, principles, claims, moral tone, histories, prophecies, revelations, literature, present redemption and eternal benefits, and its general contents.**
- **Its influence in the world.** It has blessed millions in every generation, made the highest civilizations, and given man the highest hope and destiny.
- **The character and greatness of those who accept it.** The wisest, most godly, and honest of men acknowledge it as God's Word. Only infidels and the ungodly reject it.
- **Man could not have written it if he would, and would not have written it if he could.** No critic of Scripture had ever been able to improve or disprove it.
- **Good men must have written it.** It condemns all sin and records the sins and faults of its writers as well as others. This, evil men would not do. Even good men would not do it unless inspired to do so to help others.
- **All man's present and eternal needs are met by the Bible.** Redemption and promised benefits have been given to all who believe in all generations and this will always be so.
- **Its preservation through the ages.** Whole kingdoms and religions have sought in vain to destroy it. It is still victorious and indestructible.
- **The heavenly and eternal character of its contents proves it to be of God.**
- **The response of the soul to it.** The Bible fits the soul as a key to a lock.
- **Its infinite depths and lofty ideals.** It is universal in its appeal, reasonable in its teachings, reliable in its promises, durable in its conflicts, everlasting in its usefulness, new and modern in its statements, indispensable to human civilization, indisputable in its authority, interesting in its histories, colorful in its biographies, accurate in its prophecies, individual in its messages, far reaching in its vision, complete in its laws, comprehensive in its knowledge, infinite in its detail, unselfish in its purpose, simple in its application, just in its demands, righteous in its judgments, clear in its application, and masterful in its wisdom.
- **Fulfilled prophecy.** About 3,300 verses of prophecy have been fulfilled, predictions made hundreds and even thousands of years before their fulfillment. Not one detail has failed yet. Nearly 3,000 verses are being fulfilled or will yet be fulfilled.
- **Miracles.** Hundreds are recorded in Scripture and many happen daily among those who pray and claim Bible promises.

- **Its perfection.** It is scientifically and historically correct. No one has ever found the Bible at fault in any of its many hundreds of statements on history, astronomy, botany, geology, or any other branch of learning.
- **Its adaptability.** It is always up-to-date on any subject. It fits the lives of all people of all ages and all lands.
- **Its spiritual and moral power.** It meets perfectly every spiritual and moral need of man.
- **Its doctrines.** They surpass all human principles in relationship, religion, culture, etc. ([1Cor. 2:14](#)).
- **Claims of the Bible itself.** Over 3,800 times Bible writers claim God spoke what they wrote. The Bible itself claims to be the Word of God.
- **Secular history.** Many pagans as well as Jewish and Christian writers confirm the facts of the Bible, quoting it as being genuine, authentic, and inspired of God.
- **Its inexhaustible proofs.** It would take many volumes to deal fully with the many thousands of facts which confirm the Bible to be the Word of God. The book must be divine. If one will use it properly it will confirm itself to him as the inspired Word of God.

The Word of God is in fact from God and can be trusted no matter what.

I close with this: **To engage in spiritual warfare and properly use the sword of the Spirit, one must view the Word of God as the source of all answers and learn to use those answers and apply them in all circumstances. This is not faith building, this is fruit working.**