

# ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

## SECTION 11 – The Armor of God & Spiritual Warfare

### Lesson 48 - The Armor of God Part 8

#### The Sword of the Spirit

**Ephesians 6:17** *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

In our minds we picture the sword of the spirit as a big medieval sword, fighting and wielding it. The reality is, the word “sword” here actually speaks of a dagger. A dagger is generally a knife with a blade 6 to 12 inches in length. It also speaks of hand to hand combat. With the long sword you can fight from a distance. But with the dagger you have to get up close, and get into hand to hand combat.

The dagger was used for two main purposes. One was when they could no longer use the swords, their shields were knocked down, and they were down to just hand to hand combat to try to kill each other. But there was a second purpose the dagger was used for. They would go out to battle on long campaigns. They did not have hospitals or any of the medicines and understanding that we have today. A single wound could be deadly. Dirt and debris could get in the wound. They would actually use the dagger to cut out all of the infected area. They would use the dagger to cut out all the dirt and all the debris, cover it, and then the wound could heal properly.

Paul uses this word very intentionally in speaking of the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God.

**Hebrews 4:12 AMP** *For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.*

#### What is a primary purpose of the sword of the Spirit?

The first purpose, or use, for the sword of the Spirit we are going to look at is “purification.”

The sword of the Spirit is an armament of God. We are to take the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. The dagger was used to cut out the debris, the infection. We have all been infected at times in our lives by the spirit of the day. We have all been polluted by the things that go on. That's why Jesus said that we must come before Him and be washed by the water of the Word.

**Ephesians 5:26** *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.*

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Every one of us have been polluted by the things of this world after being born again. You saw something you didn't want to see. You heard a word that you didn't want to hear. Many of you go to work places and the guys at the work places are cussing and telling of kinds of vile dirty jokes. That stuff begins to pollute you. That stuff begins to taint you. You get around family members and they're even worse. That stuff begins to pollute and taint you. You got around people who were just spewing the vileness of the enemy's strategies, and the vileness of wickedness, and it got on you and you got tainted by it. You got polluted by it.

Then there are the areas where we opened ourselves to it, where we actually sinned and engaged in these things. We got poisoned by these things. God has given you a weapon in this warfare. He's given you a mighty incredible weapon called the sword of His Spirit. One of the purposes of this dagger is to use the Word to carve out the junk; to carve out the infection. The Word is sharper than any two-edged sword. It exposes. It judges. It sifts. It cuts away.

They didn't have any anesthesia back then, except for getting drunk. I can imagine it hurt to clean the wound. I imagine it hurt when they cut away the infection. The Holy Spirit has taught me something. One of the reasons He's been sending such waves of His Spirit upon His people and teaching them to get what we like to call "drunk in the Spirit" is to get them under spiritual anesthesia so that He can take the Word and cut away without them screaming and yelling and running away. How many of you have experienced that? You're so hungry after God and you're getting so touched by God, and right in the middle of that, God takes His Word and He pierces you. He penetrates you right to the quick; right to the core of your being. But because you're so full of God, because you're so full of the anointing, cause you are so drunk in the Spirit, you're able to endure the cutting away.

God said to me, "Son, when you preach a really hard and heavy Word, and it's really cutting and the people are really broken, or when I deal with you in a very harsh manner and you're broken, always run back to My Holy Spirit for seasons of refreshing. Otherwise they and you won't be able to handle it." When God takes you through seasons of dealing with you deeply and intensely, always come back to the Holy Spirit for seasons of refreshing. We see this throughout church revivals and church history. This is what the Lord showed me by revelation. Look at the great revivals where there was incredible deep conviction. Also following that, when the people responded to God there were incredible supernatural manifestations and times of incredible joy and being filled and flooded and drunk in the Spirit, angelic encounters, and being caught away into the heavens.

### **What are the two edges to the sword of the Spirit?**

When the sword comes it's a two-edged sword. It comes to pierce, and it comes to heal all at the same time.

We need the washing of the water of the Word to cleanse us, to purify us, to get the junk out of us; the old junk that we have carried with us and the new junk that tries to get on us everyday.

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Before the priests went before God in the Holy of Holies they had to come to the brazen laver. They had to wash their hands and wash their feet every time before they entered into the presence of God. They were polluted by simply being around the world; by simply being outside of the glory they were tainted. God was teaching us that before we can get close to His glory, we have got to be washed by the water of the Word.

**John 15:3** *You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*

**Joshua 1:8** *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Meditate on the Word, speak the Word out, use the Word to keep yourself pure. It's a weapon that can clean out the junk. Yes, it might hurt. Yes, it will cut, but it will clean out the junk so that you can be truly healed.

**Psalm 107:20** *He sent His word and healed them,  
And delivered them from their destructions.*

He sent His word and He healed them. But there are many times in order to be healed, you have to cut away the infection, you have to cut away the garbage, you have to cut out the cancer in order for the healing to take place.

The sword of the Spirit is also a defensive weapon; an incredibly powerful defensive weapon against the assaults of the devil.

**Luke 4:1-4** *Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.*

*3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."*

*4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"*

Jesus, having been baptized with the Spirit was immediately sent by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. Some of you think the moment you get filled with the Holy Spirit He's going to send you into the ministry. But often the first thing that happens when you get a real fresh touch of the Holy Spirit is He sends you into the wilderness. He sent Jesus into the wilderness and He was tempted for forty days by the devil. It did not say that He was only tempted three times. It says for 40 days He was tempted by the devil.

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The devil came up against Him. He was attacking Him. He was trying to release insecurity and inferiority over Him. Inferiority: IF you are the son of God. You're not who you think you are. You're not in the image of God. It's worded differently but it is the same strategy. He's saying to Jesus IF. He was questioning if Jesus was really sure that He is the Son of God. He released upon Jesus right at that moment the spirit of insecurity and the spirit of inferiority, trying to get Jesus to question who He really was; to question His calling; to question His destiny.

Jesus didn't get into a debate with the devil. He used the power of the Word as a defensive weapon. He said, "It is written." He didn't say, "Devil you're a dumb devil." Jesus used the Word.

**Luke 4:5-7** *Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him[d] all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."*

The devil comes along and he hits Him on the other side. He hits Jesus again using the spirits of insecurity and inferiority. Working with the sin of comparison, he tries to tempt Jesus with superiority. He now gives Him an opportunity to feel superior. The same thing he did to Eve in the Garden, he's trying to do to Jesus. But Jesus did what Eve did not do. He continued to use the Word of God, and He spoke the Word.

**John 4:8** *And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"*

#### **How is the sword of the Spirit used as an offensive weapon?**

[The sword of the Spirit, The Word of God, when spoken out of your mouth is a mighty offensive weapon.](#)

Jesus used the Word to assault the devil. When you use the Word of God as a mighty offensive weapon against the devil, when you attack the devil with the Word of God, he does not just sit back unaffected. It is a mighty force that literally pummels the enemy. The Word of God in your mouth pummels the enemy. The devil is not free from the ability to be injured. When you use the Word of God it pummels him. Why do you think the devil finally had to leave? He was being beat up so bad by Jesus. He was being pummeled by Jesus so horribly he finally had to leave.

Early in our ministry we had a service and several Satanists came to the service trying to disrupt the meeting. They weren't very successful. I found out later that after the meeting they did a blood sacrifice killing an animal, and sent a demon spirit to attack me. The next night I'm lying in my bed in a deep sleep, when all of the sudden my spirit-man senses a demon in the room. Your body may sleep, but your spirit never sleeps. I felt the weight of a man jump on top of my body and a bright white flash.

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Immediately I tried to get myself to wake up. Have you ever been in that state where you are trying to wake up and you are trying to speak, but your mouth doesn't work yet? That's where I was. I was wanting to say, "Jesus, Jesus," and I couldn't say anything. I just had to keep thinking, "Jesus". Finally, my mouth worked and I said, "Jesus." That thing jumped off me. I turned over and said, "I bind you in Jesus' name and I cast you out." I rolled over to go to sleep.

The next thing I know, there is another spirit in the room and it is threatening me. I said, "I told you, in the name of Jesus, get out." I rolled back over to go to sleep. Another spirit came in to the room. By this time I've had it. I got up out of bed and I began to fight and bind this thing. As I prayed in spiritual warfare I saw in the spirit. I saw a large demon spirit outside my window. He had these little punk demons around him and he was picking them up, throwing them in. They tried to attack me, I'd hit them with the Word of God, and kick them back out. Then he'd pick another one up and throw it in.

Finally after a few more minutes of that I was done playing his game. I turned to that major demon and I said, "I bind you in the name of Jesus, but I command you not to go." Then I grabbed my Bible and for the next thirty minutes I read Scripture to that demon spirit. I read every scripture of the destruction of the devil. I read every scripture of the judgment of him. I said, "Devil, my Bible says that you are going to be eaten by the worms. My Bible says men are going to look at you and say, 'Is this the one that's ruled the nations?' My Bible says you are going to be bound by chains. You are going to be cast into the lake of fire. No weapon formed against me shall prosper. That behold God has given me power over all the power of the enemy." Finally after half an hour, I said, "Devil, you can go now." I tell you, I never felt a demon leave me so fast in my life. That devil never came back to attack me in my dreams again. I used the power of the Word, and I pummeled the devil.

When you use the Word as a weapon it's powerful. Every time the devil attacks you, every time those wrong thoughts come in, open your mouth and speak the Word. Don't just sit there and resist on the inside. The Bible didn't say Jesus 'thought' against the devil. The Bible didn't say Jesus just fought in His heart against the devil. The Bible said Jesus opened His mouth and He said, "It is written." The Word of God has legal power when you speak it. All of the power of heaven is backing it up.

The Word of God is also an offensive weapon.

**Matthew 8:5-8** *Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."*

*7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."*

*8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed."*

The centurion told Jesus He need only speak a Word. The sword of the Spirit is not only a powerful defensive weapon to guard your heart and mind from the devil and powerful cleansing weapon to purify you from all the vile things, but it is a powerful offensive weapon. The centurion understood that when Jesus spoke the Word it would go forth out of His mouth transcending time and space. It would travel

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right to where his servant was. Jesus don't have to see him, or touch him. All He had to do is open His mouth and speak the Word, and the servant would be healed. Jesus said this man understood faith.

**Isaiah 55:11** *So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;  
It shall not return to Me void,  
But it shall accomplish what I please,  
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

There is a power in God's Word. God's Word in your mouth is a mighty, incredibly powerful weapon. There is no devil, there is no demon, there is no spirit, there is no force in heaven, there's no force on earth, there's no force that can stand against the force of His Word. He has given us the whole armor. Take on the revelation that it is not your words, but His Word in your mouth. We are called to be His mouthpiece. We are to open our mouth and speak the Word like Jesus did.

Jesus said, "As the Father has sent Me, even so send I you." (John 20:12) Jesus spoke the words "Peace be still," and the winds and the waves were calm. He spoke the word "See," and they saw. He opened His mouth and spoke the rhema Word from God; a fresh Word spoken by God. You want to receive the miracles? You want the key to living in power? You hear that fresh Word spoken by God, and then what you hear in secret, you declare from the rooftop. You open your mouth and speak the Word. The power of that Word will pummel the power of the enemy and destroy his strongholds. It will destroy sickness, bondage, and the works of the devil. It will establish the work of the Kingdom.

We are heading into the most serious days the world has ever seen. It's why for thirty plus years now God has been trying to pour upon the church a new revelation and fresh hunger for His Word. We are going to need the Word as an offensive and defensive weapon in these last days like never before.

God gave me this word of prophecy. He said, "It is going to be more important for My people to be cleansed by My Word in these last days than at any time in history. The release of wickedness and vileness will be unlike anything seen before, even more than the days of Sodom and the days of Noah. Yet I will release My spirit of holiness through My Words that will wash and cleanse My people. My Words will pierce them and purge them. It will be their fortress and refuge. You must meditate on My Word day and night. Place it before you at all times. Talk of it wherever you go, for My Word is power."

#### **What are the three effects of the Word of God, The sword of the Spirit?**

**God's Word will cleanse us. God's Word will engage in defensive warfare. God's Word is a powerful force in our mouths to destroy the strongholds of the enemy and to release the power of God.**

That is why the Bible says that in the last days He will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh and our sons and daughters will what prophesy. (Joel 2:28) That word prophesy means they will declare the Word of the Lord.

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**Ephesians 6:17-18** *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, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—*

That semicolon at the end of verse seventeen is actually a word in the original language. They didn't have punctuation in the original Greek. They used words that would describe what it means. That word for the semicolon tells us to connect the next thought. The literal definition there is "by means of". You could take out the the semicolon and replace it with the phrase "by means of". Then it would read: take the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God by means of praying. Take the word of God, take the sword of the Spirit praying. If you want your prayers answered, if you want breakthroughs like you have never had before, take the sword of the Spirit and take it praying. You will pummel the enemy.

What you speak will come to pass because God's Word will not return to Him void. Take on the whole armor of God. Put it all on that you will stand, and in the evil day having done all to stand in absolute total victory in the name of Jesus. Walk in this. Walk in the revelation of this. The power of God works in your mouth.

#### **For Further Study:**

**Mark 16:20** *And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.*

**Luke 4:32** *And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.*