



“SPIRITUAL WARFARE!!!” (Part 7)

EPHESIANS 6:10-17

“And Take the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT!”

Go for God!

> **Ephesians 6:17 - And Take the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT!**

- Gladius is a Latin word meaning "sword" (of any type), but in its narrow sense, it refers to the sword of Ancient Roman foot soldiers. Early ancient Roman swords were similar to those of the Greeks, called xiphe (plural; singular xiphos). From the 3rd century BC, however, the Romans adopted a sword based on the weapons used by the Celtiberians in Hispania late into the Punic Wars, known in Latin as the gladius hispaniensis, or "Hispanic sword".^[1]

A fully equipped Roman legionary after the reforms of Gaius Marius was armed with a shield (scutum), one or two javelins (pila), a sword (gladius), often a dagger (pugio), and, perhaps in the later empire period, darts (plumbatae). Conventionally, soldiers threw pila to disable the enemy's shields and disrupt enemy formations before engaging in close combat, for which they drew the gladius. A soldier generally led with the shield and thrust with the sword.^[2]

Gladii were two-edged for cutting and had a tapered point for stabbing during thrusting. A solid grip was provided by a knobbed hilt added on, possibly with ridges for the fingers. Blade strength was achieved by welding together strips, in which case the sword had a channel down the center, or by fashioning a single piece of high-carbon steel, rhomboidal in cross-section. The owner's name was often engraved or punched on the blade.

The hilt of a Roman sword was the capulus. It was often ornate, especially the sword-hilts of officers and dignitaries. The gladius sword weighed 1.5 to 2 pounds, its length was 24 to 33 inches, the blade itself measures 18 to 27 inches, its width was 2 to 2.8 inches.

Stabbing was a very efficient technique, as stabbing wounds, especially in the abdominal area, were almost always deadly.^[19] However, the gladius in some circumstances was used for cutting or slashing, as is indicated by Livy's account of the Macedonian Wars, wherein the Macedonian soldiers were horrified to see dismembered bodies.^[20]

Though the primary infantry attack was thrusting at stomach height, they were trained to take any advantage, such as slashing at kneecaps beneath the shield wall.



- Video – Roman Soldier’s *Gladius (sword)* training and military warfare!

> OBSERVE THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER’S “SWORD OF THE SPIRIT” TRAINING:

~ SWORD OF THE SPIRIT LESSON #1 - BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD!

- *The Bible is Inspired!* - 2 Timothy 3:16,17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(Teaching every soldier of Christ: what is right, what is not right, how to get right, and how to stay right!)

- *The Bible is Infallible!* - Psalm 119:89 - Forever, O LORD, your word is settled in heaven.

Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.

- *The Bible is Authoritative!* - 2 Peter 1:19-21 - *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

- *The Bible is Inerrant!* - Psalm 19:8 - *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes*

Matthew 5:18 - *"For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

- *The Bible is All Sufficient!* - Hebrews 4:12 - *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Jeremiah 15:16 - *Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.*

* At a very moderate rate, the entire Bible can be read in about 70 hours. That works out to about 52 hours for the Old Testament and 18 hours for the New Testament. If one reads systematically 4 chapters per day you will finish the entire Bible in 9 to 10 months.

~ *SWORD OF THE SPIRIT LESSON #2 - STUDY THE WORD OF GOD!*

- *Desire the Word!* - 1 Peter 2:2 - *as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,*

- *Search the Scriptures!* - John 5:39 - *"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.*

Acts 17:11 - *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

- *Learn the Scriptures!* - Romans 15:4 - *For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

- *Study the Word!* - 2 Timothy 2:15 - *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

- *Abide and pray!* - John 15:1-8 - *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without*

Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

~ SWORD OF THE SPIRIT LESSON #3 – FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!

- Learn from JESUS in SPIRITUAL WARFARE - Matthew Ch. 4:1-11

(v1-2) BE AWARE OF YOUR ENEMY!

(v1-2) Jesus led by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil in the wilderness. Unlike the first Adam in the Garden of Eden where the environment was perfect and food was provided, but now it is wilderness, it is hunger and destitution.

- What does the word *tempt* mean? In a bad sense (by the devil): to test one maliciously, craftily to put to the proof his feelings or judgment.

Remember God is on our side for scripture tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:13 - *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

James 1:13-15 - *When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (i.e. – Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden, Genesis Ch. 3)*

- How to PREPARE for the battles? Jesus said in Matthew 26:40-42 - *And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? "Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."* Our Lord fasted and prayed for forty days and forty nights to take on the devil in SWORD-to-SWORD combat.

(v3-10) JESUS FIGHTS THE GOOD FIGHT!

- Jesus used two spiritual resources that are available to us today:

(1) *the power of the Holy Spirit of God* (Mt. 4:1) and

(2) *the power of the Word of God* ("It is written").

- Temptation involves the will, and Jesus came to do the Father's will, and so are we!

- Remember what John the beloved has taught us in 1 John 2:15-17 - *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

(v3-4) **TEMPTATION #1 – *The LUST OF THE FLESH!*** – Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3 - *He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.* Jesus, like a soldier disciplines himself for battle.

(v5-7) **TEMPTATION #2 – *THE PRIDE OF LIFE!*** – Satan deceptively quotes Psalm 91:11-12 - *For He shall give His angels charge over you, (but leaves out) to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

Jesus pulls out the *sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God* (Eph. 6:17), and quotes Deuteronomy 6:16-19 - *"You shall not tempt the LORD" (the rest of the passage is thought provoking) your God as you tempted Him in Massah. You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land of which the LORD swore to your fathers, to cast out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has spoken.*

(v8-10) **TEMPTATION #3 – *THE LUST OF THE EYES!*** – Satan shows Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their glory! Satan was saying, “Jesus, you can have it all, riches, power, fame, anything and everything will be yours, just bow down and worship me!”

Notice, Jesus did not argue in regard to the devil’s rulership of this world and its riches, but quotes from Deuteronomy 6:13 - *You shall fear (worship) the LORD your God and serve Him, (once again ponder on the rest of the passage in verses 14-15) and shall take oaths in His name. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you (for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth. Remember, what you worship is what you serve.*

(v11) *THE SOLDIER’S VICTORY IS IN FOLLOWING CHRIST!*

In James 4:7 we read, *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

In 1 John 4:4 - *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

- A final sidenote: **BEWARE SOLDIERS, THERE ARE TRAITORS AMONG US!**
2 Corinthians 11:3-4 - *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it!*

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 - For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

1 Timothy 4:1-4 - Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

2 Timothy 4:3-5 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2 Peter 2:1-3 - But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

Jude 3-4 - Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

> Finally, SATAN'S DEFEAT and DESTINY! - Revelation 20:10 - The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever