

# Call of Duty Pt 9

*CENTRAL QUESTION:*

*What does it mean to take up the sword of the Spirit, and how do we learn to use it?*

## I. OPENING REMARKS

Key Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-18

- Pastor's charge to be joyful and kind.
- Welcome to newcomers.
- Series: The Call of Duty. Focus on what we live for, not just work or paychecks.

## II. SERIES CONTEXT

A. Purpose of the series

- Wake Christians to their calling.
- Move from living for comfort to living for Christ.

B. Brief personal note

- Pastor's experience as a working pastor for 30 years.
- The need for spiritual fitness.

## III. REVIEW OF THE ARMOR (defensive pieces)

- Belt of truth.
- Breastplate of righteousness.
- Shoes of the gospel of peace.
- Shield of faith (carried and used to quench fiery darts).
- Helmet of salvation (battle for the mind).

## IV. MAIN FOCUS: THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT (offensive weapon)

Key Scripture: Ephesians 6:17

A. The sword is the Word of God

- Paul's image: a two-edged sword that divides soul and spirit.
- The sword is the only offensive piece in the armor set.
  - B. Why the sword matters
- Defensive gear protects. The sword advances.
- Many Christians lack practice with this weapon.

## V. MILITARY ANALOGY AND TRAINING

### A. Roman sword history (Gladius) and modern weapons

- Short, thrusting blade; well trained soldiers.
- Pastor's visual demo with a modern rifle to illustrate training and responsibility.
  - B. Training steps compared to spiritual practice
- Safety and handling (know your weapon).
- Field-strip, know every part, keep it clean and ready.
- Practice firing with accuracy from different positions.
- Become one with the weapon in the heat of battle.

## VI. PROBLEM IDENTIFIED

- Fewer than 10% read the Bible daily.
- Few study it regularly.
- Dull, rusty swords leave Christians exposed.

## VII. SCRIPTURAL EXAMPLES: DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN

Key passage: 2 Samuel 23 (mighty men)

- Adino: great feat in battle.
- Eleazar: fought so long his hand clung to the sword.
- Shammah: stood alone and defended the harvest.
  - Point: They knew their weapons and would not let go.

## VIII. HOW TO WIELD THE SWORD PRACTICALLY

A. Read the Word daily.

- B. Memorize key verses.
- C. Meditate and think on scripture in hard moments.
- D. Speak Scripture aloud and declare God's promises.
- E. Join regular study like Tuesday night Bible study to learn tools and application.

## IX. THE POWER OF THE WORD

Key Scripture: Isaiah 55:10-11

- The Word does not return void.
- The Word brings life, breakthrough, and authority when used in faith.

## X. TAKEAWAYS

- Know your weapon.
- Study and practice with the Bible until it becomes natural.
- Use the sword both to defend and to press forward.
- The Word provides answers for fear, doubt, relationships, and life trials.

## XI. QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- How often do I read and study Scripture each week?
- Where in my life do I need the Word to speak most clearly?
- Which verses should I memorize to help in my current struggles?
- Am I prepared to use the Word as an offensive tool, not just a shield?

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Ephesians 6:10-18 | 2 Samuel 23 (mighty men) | Isaiah 55:10-11