

The Sword of the Spirit

Intro

- **We are continuing our study through Eph 6:10-17 to understand...**
 - How to operate in God's strength, rather than our own
- **Today we are talking about what it means to use the Sword of the Spirit**

Today's Scripture

Ephesians 6:17 CSB

¹⁷ Take... the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God.

- **The one weapon we have against our spiritual enemy is the Word of God**
 - i.e. The words God has spoken, are the power we have to not just defend, but also fight back against our spiritual enemy

Our common problem...

- **We prefer to fight with our own weapons**
 - Our strength of will
 - Our resilience
 - Our knowledge and intelligence
- **As we've been talking about for weeks these things are all insufficient**
 - We lack sufficient understanding
 - Our words lack authority over the enemy

- **When we try to engage the enemy in a battle of our minds vs. his, we lose every time – But of course we keep trying**

Only God's words have the power to defeat the enemy

- **The word of God is uniquely powerful and accurate**
 - Hebrews 4:12–13 “*For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 No creature is hidden from him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.*”
- **God's words created the universe**
 - Psalm 33:6 “*The heavens were made by the word of the Lord, and all the stars, by the breath of his mouth.*”
 - Hebrews 11:3 “*By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.*”
- **God's words carries ultimate authority**
 - Isaiah 55:11 “*...so my word that comes from my mouth will not return to me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do.*”

We can and must learn to “handle God’s word” like you would learn to use a sword

- 2 Timothy 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.”
- 2 Timothy 3:14–17 “...continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you, 15 and you know that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

The Holy Spirit will also guide us in understanding and using God’s word effectively

- 1 Corinthians 2:12–13 “Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God. 13 We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people.”

We must reject our own wisdom, or our knowledge and arguments, and instead take the fight to the enemy with the truth of God’s word

- As it is God’s power that defends us against the enemy, it is also God’s power that is our weapon against the enemy

Today's challenge

- **Identify the human made weapons you have been trying to use against the enemy**
 - Questions to help you identify these weapons
 - *In what ways have you been letting yourself get into a debate with the enemy?*
 - *In what areas of life do you feel like you've been locked in battle with the enemy, without any progress?*
 - *In what ways have you been relying on catchy Christian sayings, other's peoples testimonies, and what worked for other people in their battles?*
 - **Study scripture and commit it to memory**
 - Don't get into a back-and-forth with the devil
 - Respond to the devil with the words of God (Luke 4:1-13)

If we can learn to fight the enemy with God's word rather than our wisdom

- We will break free of gridlock and see the enemy flee
- We will see God's glory and victory in our lives

REFLECT

Let's take a moment to pray

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide our attention and lead our conversation, helping us see and understand what He wants us to apply in our lives.

APPLY

Process the passage together with these questions:

- What are some specific examples of "human-made weapons" we try to use when facing spiritual attacks?
- What does it practically look like for a believer to "rightly handle" the Word of truth as described in 2 Timothy 2:15?
- What specific steps can you take this week to memorize Scripture so you are ready to use your sword?

Where we want to "land the plane"

- We often exhaust ourselves trying to fight spiritual battles using our own resilience, intelligence, and arguments, only to find that we are powerless against the enemy's schemes. To see true victory, we must lay down these human-made weapons and pick up the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. By committing Scripture to memory and relying on the Holy Spirit's guidance, we can stop debating the devil and start silencing him with God's authoritative truth. This week, let us identify where we are stuck in gridlock and begin fighting back by speaking specific Scriptures over those situations.