

EPHESIANS

Take Up the Sword of the Spirit

Ephesians 6:17b

The last and only offensive weapon mentioned in the believer's armor of Eph. 6:10-17 is the "*sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.*" Below are some questions and key cross references to help you get a clearer picture of what it means to take up the sword of the Spirit to thwart the devil's schemes, to resist in the evil day, and wage the good warfare to the glory of God.

1. Of the two kinds of swords mentioned in the New Testament, what kind, shape, size of sword is being referred to in Eph. 6:17b?
2. Why does it matter that we understand the literal kind of Roman Soldier's sword being referred to in vs. 17 and understand how the kind of sword being referred to by Paul was used *before* we consider the spiritual truths represented by it?
3. What does phrase "*and [take] the sword of the Spirit*" in vs. 17 tell us about:
 - A. ***When* we are to take up the sword of the Spirit?**
 - B. ***How* we are to take up the sword of the Spirit?**
 - C. ***The origin or maker* of the sword we are to take up?**
 - D. ***The necessity* of taking up the sword of the Spirit?**
 - E. ***The power* of the sword since it is of the Spirit?**
4. "The sword of the Spirit" is defined as "the Word of God" in vs. 17. What are some of the attributes or characteristics of the Word of God mentioned in the verses below, which help explain why we must take it up to fight against the schemes of the devil and resist in the evil day?
 - A. **Psa. 119:160**
 - B. **Psa. 138:2**
 - C. **Isa. 40:8**
 - D. **Jer. 23:29**
 - E. **Jn. 17:17**
 - F. **I Thess. 2:13**
 - G. **Heb. 4:12**
 - H. **I Pet. 1:23**
 - I. **II Pet. 1:3-4**

5. During our teaching time we briefly looked at how Jesus used the sword of the Spirit when tempted by the devil as recorded in Mt. 4:1-8 and Lk. 4:1-13.
 - A. What is surprising about the subtle means Satan used to tempt Jesus?
 - B. What can we learn about the necessity of learning how to study the Bible accurately from *the way* Satan tempted Jesus?
 - C. Satan also tempted Jesus in less subtle ways. Regardless of how Satan tempted Jesus, how did Jesus respond to every temptation? Why and what must we learn from Jesus' example?
 - D. When we are tempted by Satan, is there anything wrong with using something other than the Word of God to resist temptation, like our wisdom, strength, money, or advice from the world? If so, why?

6. Consider what was learned from John Bunyan's allegorical dialogue between Greatheart and Valliant for truth in the second book of *Pilgrim's Progress* and why each lesson learned is important for the believer.
 - A. You must have the truth on your side to wage the good warfare (Rom. 8:31-39).
 - B. You must not be concerned about what might happen to you because you used and relied on the sword of the Spirit (Mt. 10:28).
 - C. You must not be afraid to use the sword of the Spirit when tempted (Psa. 86:11).
 - D. You must know that God's grace is sufficient for you as you use the sword of the Spirit to resist sin and temptation (I Cor. 10:13).
 - E. You must pray to the Lord for help as you use the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:18).
 - F. You must remember the Lord sends invisible help, angels, to assist you as you resist the schemes of the devil with the sword of the Spirit (Heb. 1:14).
 - G. You unsheathe the sword of the Spirit by recalling what you know to be true from the Word of God when you are tempted to sin (Psa. 119:11).
 - H. You must trust in the Lord to renew your strength if you grow weary wielding the sword of the Spirit (Isa. 40:30-31).
 - I. You must use the sword of the Spirit to fight against Satan's lies, deceptions, and temptations, if necessary, even to death (Rev. 12:11).

7. Answer the following questions about a believer's use of the sword of the Spirit:
 - A. What is the sword of the Spirit?
 - B. How does a believer get the sword of the Spirit in their possession so that it is ready for constant use?
 - C. How does a believer learn to wield or use the sword of the Spirit accurately against the schemes of the devil?
 - D. What specifically does it mean to unsheathe the sword of the Spirit when tempted, exposed to false doctrine, false teachers, or when living your life in an evil and perverse generation?

8. Prayer topics:
 - A. Pray for Anchor Bible Church that each believer will have a firm grasp of the Word of God.
 - B. Pray that each believer at Anchor Bible Church learns to interpret and apply the Word of God accurately.