

The Sword of the Spirit



“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

¹¹Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

- Ephesians 6:10-18

A Reminder About the Battle

- This battle is of utmost importance. (*“Finally...”*)
- This battle has been raging since the creation and there is no “neutral” territory. *“He who is not with me is against me...”* - Luke 11:23
- You just need to be prepared!
¹³“Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”
- You are only effective in the Lord. It is His strength, His power and His armour (*the Spirit’s sword*).

The Armour of God

- It is six distinct pieces of armour and a seventh when you add the aspect of prayer.

Some General Thoughts About the Sword

“...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” - Ephesians 6:17

1. This is the only piece of armour that can be used offensively.
2. It is the last piece of armour listed. (*Does the order of the listing of the armour teach us anything?*)
3. It is the only piece of armour listed with an explanation.
4. It is a specific sword.

A Roman soldier had two swords to choose from:

- A Rhomphaia — ρομφαία — long, two-handed sword
“Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” - Revelation 19:15
 - A Makaira — μακαιρα — very sharp, 18” long
“Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.)” - John 18:10
5. This sword is very sharp and can be very dangerous.
“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” - Hebrews 4:12

Which is the Word of God

- The word “word” in the Greek text (rhema – ρημα) means the spoken word. It means, *“that which is uttered or spoken.”*
- It can be God’s spoken word to us (His “still, small voice”)
- It can be Scriptures spoken by a believer.
“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” - Romans 10:17
*“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, that whenever I **open my mouth, words may be given me** so that I will fearlessly **make known** the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may **declare it fearlessly** as I should.”* - Ephesians 6:17-20
- Many Christians believe that the printed Bible is the “Sword”, but it is actually the spoken word of God, either directly to you or the Scriptures spoken through you. (*Remember: You could have many Bibles and not have a Sword!*)

Using Your Sword

1. The first step is to “master” your sword.
*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who **correctly handles the word of truth.**”* - 2 Timothy 2:15
2. Then, use your sword to deflect temptation.
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” - Psalm 119:11
3. You use your sword to answer questions.
*“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”* - 1 Peter 3:15
4. You use your sword to help others become more godly.
*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for **teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,** ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* - 2 Timothy 3:16,17

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