

The Armor of God – The Sword of the Spirit

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Battle Ready

Text: Ephesians 6:17

Spiritual battles follow the same patterns as like natural battles. Nations do not engage in warfare constantly; they fight when problems come along. There is no need to fight unless there is a reason to fight. The rest of the time soldiers train prepare refresh and enjoy times of peace. Battles will come, but they do not come every day. God has given us the armor and the weapons so that when they do come, we will be prepared to maintain our position of victory.

Roman soldiers used five different types of swords, but the one Paul was referring to was called, in the Greek, a machaira. This sword was nineteen inches long and razor sharp on both sides. They literally had a double - edged sword. With two edges this sword would cut you coming in and going out. It is a brutally efficient weapon. The Sword of the Spirit is used to rip our enemy to shreds.

The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. **Hebrews 4:12** This ‘Word’ in the Greek is ‘Rhema’. It is spoken clearly, in unmistakable terms, in an undeniable language; something that is spoken in certain and definite terms. In the New Testament, the word ‘Rhema’ carries the idea of a quickened word. It is a “word from the Lord”, that the Holy Spirit drops into one’s mind, causing it to come alive supernaturally so that it imparts power to the believer.

These Rhema words are so powerful that when the Holy Spirit quickens such a word or a Bible verse in a believer’s heart and mind, they really know that they have heard from the Lord and there is no doubt about it. **John 14:26** When God speaks a word to us it is definite, unmistakable and undeniable. A Rhema word is a specific word that is quickened in our heart at a specific time and for a specific purpose. The Word of God or the Sword of the Spirit gives us spiritual sword power in the spirit realm.

When not in use the sword was attached in a sheath to the loin belt which is representative of the Logos or the written word of God. The written Word of God is the primary source of the Rhema word of God. With the Word of God in our hand we have a powerful weapon to repel the attacks of Satan. God must take His Word off the written page and put it in our mouth so we can speak it against the enemy.

A double-edged sword was not used to slash but to stab. It was meant to penetrate not just cut. God’s Word will always get to the heart of a matter. We are told that a Roman sword only needed to go in two inches to result in death. Many people think you have to have the entire Bible memorized to be used by God or for God to speak to them. A little word goes a long way. It is when the word gets into us that we will die to ourselves in order for us to live for Christ. **Philippians 1:21** It is when we speak the Word into and over our situations that the enemy is defeated.

Throughout the Bible we see examples of how God speaks to people. Noah, Moses, Mary, Joseph, Gideon, Abraham – all were given a short but detailed word of instruction and promise from God that changed the entire course of their lives.

By obeying simple and specific words from God men and women have altered the course of history. Many times, we conquer the dominion of darkness by responding to God's word for our life and then fulfilling our purpose. Most times God does not take a long time to say a simple thing. We know this from prophesy and about the gift of prophecy. Often those who give LOOONG words are inserting their own twist. **1 Corinthians 14:32 (NKJV & AMP)**

The idea of a two-edged sword is found throughout the New Testament. **Revelation 1:16** Two-edged comes from the Greek 'di' meaning two and 'stomos' word for 'mouth'. This describes something that is two-mouthed but not double tongued. This statement is found in **Revelation 2:12** This could be translated "a sharp sword with two mouths" and **Hebrews 4:12**.

Before the Romans adopted the two-edged blade, they used to fight with the less damaging one-sided blade. If you got hit with the blunt side, it acted like a club, but it did not cut or cause damage. You may stun your enemy, but they could recover. A two-edged sword is sharp on both sides and gives a strategic advantage. The Word of God is like a sword with two-edges. One sharpened edge came into being when the God's words came out of His mouth. The second edge of the sword is added when His Word comes out of our mouth. We used to be the blunt edge of the sword but when we start saying the same things that Jesus says we become a sharp edge of the sword. **Psalm 149:6**

When we are challenged by a demonic attack or the trials of life the Holy Spirit reaches down into our spirit where we have stored up the Word of God. We are able to draw out that word and it advances against the enemy when it comes out of our mouth. This is why it is vital that we meditate on the Word of God and that we confess it with our mouth.

Psalm 1:1-2, Proverbs 7:2-3, Joshua 1:7-8

When we release the Word of God into our lives and when we allow it to do its work in us and we speak it over our lives it gets deep in us. The Bible says it is a discerner of our thoughts and emotions. God's Word is able to deal with the true thoughts and intentions of our heart. Even when we are lying to ourselves His word cuts through with truth and is able to heal. When God's word is released in our lives we are inwardly changed. It is this "WORD" in us that helps us to walk in faith and by faith. **Romans 10:17**

Once the Word of God has taken root inside of us, our mind and emotions are changed by its power. We are then in a position to speak and wield God's Word for ourselves. Our renewed mind will cooperate with our faith, in order that we speak the Word of God without any doubt. Our confession is like raising a two-edged sword in the face of our enemy.

The word of God in us is a one-edged sword. The word of God going out of us in agreement with what God says is a two-edged sword. It is good that God's Word works in us, but it is also meant to have effect coming out of us. Notice that when Jesus, who is the Word of God, is pictured with a sword, it is not in His hand but in His mouth.

Remember when Jesus faced off against Satan in the wilderness, He fought Satan with the Word of His Father. Three powerful words crush our enemy when they come out of our mouth – “It is written”. **Matthew 4:1-11**

Jesus was using scripture that He had learned and memorized as a child. When we get the Word of God into our children they are armed and dangerous against the enemy’s attacks from a young age. Satan challenged who Jesus is – ‘if you are the son of God’.

Jesus had to know the Word of God because Satan tried to use the Word of God against Him. Satan knows how to quote scripture because he knows it better than most Christians. Remember the Word of God is a legal binding contract and Satan tries to twist it to say things it does not say. He tries to deceive us by teaching us the Bible the way he wants us to know it. The desire of our enemy is to get us to believe there are things in the Word that are not there in order to rob us of the blessing of God.

How do you resist temptation? With the word of God. This is why it must be living, active and powerfully at work inside of us.

Remember a sword in the hand of a beginner is still a weapon; the sword in the hand of someone who is skilled is not only a weapon it is a tool.