



Armor of God

Session 7 – The Sword of the Spirit

March 29, 2022

Ephesians 6:11 - 18: Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For 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. Therefore put on the full armor 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. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**. And 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 Lord's people.



The Roman sword is the analogy Paul used for the only offensive armor we are given, and he tells us that this sword is the Word of God. So, how powerful is this one and only offensive weapon we have?

Hebrews 4:12:

For the word of God is alive 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.

This is a graphic explanation of how completely God's Word can distinguish between the godly and ungodly. This incredible "cutting" power of Scripture is therefore a tool to separate our very thoughts into good and evil.

2 Timothy 3:16:

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

Romans 15:4:

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

The Bible provides everything we need to know the difference between truly selfless, spiritual deeds and acts which are selfish and ungodly.

2 Peter 1:3:

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

And how do we acquire a “knowledge of him who called us”?

We use this offensive weapon in two ways:

1. First, we use it as a way of searching our own hearts, allowing the Holy Spirit to separate from us anything that is evil—in our hearts, in our thoughts, in our motives. This sword of the Spirit is to guide us and teach us:

Psalms 119:105: *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

Psalms 119:11: *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

Psalms 119:133: *Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.*

2. Second, the sword of the Spirit is our offensive weapon against the evil one. We are not passive; we are not helpless against his attacks; we can strike back and boldly put him down with this sword—God’s Word.

How did Jesus defeat Satan?

Jesus knew how to use this weapon against Satan, as we see in **Matthew 4:1 – 11:**

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

What does the temptation of Jesus teach us about our enemy?

First, it exposes some of the schemes of the evil one.

- Satan comes after us in times of weakness.
- The enemy knows exactly how to pull each of us off track.
- The efforts of the enemy are relentless.
- Tactics of the enemy are to accuse, tempt, and deceive.
 1. Accusation: Luke 4:3 – “If you are the Son of God...”
 2. Temptation: Luke 4:6-7 – “I will give you all their authority and splendor... if you worship before me.”
 3. Deception: Luke 4:9-11 – *Just jump*, he dared Jesus. *God will send His angels to protect you.*

Jesus battled each tactic with one weapon: the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

Victory is ours in Jesus!

You and I have all the same weapons that Jesus had to fight our spiritual battles.

- The Word of God is at our disposal
- Our loving, heavenly Father remains in full authority over Satan.
- We have God-given power and authority over the enemy.

Luke 10:19:

I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

Colossians 2:10:

...and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

1 John 4:4:

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

- The Holy Spirit intercedes for us.

Romans 8:26 – 27:

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Our Unique Weapon

John 1:1: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

This sword belongs to the Holy Spirit. We are told to take this sword—we have to reach out and take it. We must rightly divide the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15:

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

How do we use the sword of the Spirit?

1. Read the 'sword' in context

We must be careful not to read the Word out of context or read into it our own biases. For example, out of context how might someone interpret this verse?

Philippians 4:13: *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

2. Learn as much as you can about the Word.

Read and study daily. Learn to "feed yourself."

1 Timothy 4:7:

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

Don't ever underestimate the power of God's Word.

3. Pray the Word of God.

Ephesians 6:18:

And 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 Lord's people.

Knowing the Word of God enables us to pray the Word of God. By praying the sword of the Spirit:

- We know we are praying his will and using his perfect words to intercede.
- We're using the most powerful tool in our arsenal.
- Truth begins to fill our minds so that we can ward off the lies of the enemy.
- Eventually, we'll learn the verses by heart so that the Holy Spirit can call them to mind when we need them most.

What are some other "kinds of prayers and requests" that we can pray?

Are you effectively using your 'sword'?

Study the Bible for yourself. How can you feed yourself/train yourself to know God's Word better?

- Start your own personal Bible study.
- Memorize Scripture.
- Pray Scripture over yourself, your family, your job, your church, your friends.

Prayer is something we learn, something we grow in as we get to know his Word better and better.

A Prayer for You to Use the Sword of the Spirit

Heavenly Father, equip me with the sword of the Spirit today. May I be ready to give a reason for the hope that I have within me. Whenever the devil launches doubts or twists Scripture, help remind me about what your Word really, truly says. As I study your Word today, help me to bear in mind the original context of the passage, so as not to distort the meaning through my own cultural biases. Reveal to me the meaning of your Word and how it applies to my life today. Whether I fight an offensive or defensive battle today, don't let me leave without the sword of the Spirit, which is your Word. Amen.

Sword of the Spirit Prayers

How would you pray this passage for someone you love? Put their name in the prayer:

Philippians 1:9 – 11:

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Here are a few passages that are very effective prayers for yourself and for others. You will find many more as you read God's Word. In fact, make it a practice to pray God's Word as you read it.

Hebrews 13:20 – 21:

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Thessalonians 1:11 – 12:

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 3:16 – 19:

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Colossians 1:9 – 11:

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience...

Psalms 139: 23 – 24:

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.