

# Armor of God - Week 6



SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023

## Summary - "Perfectly Suited, Purposefully Fighting"

This week we look at the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and the need for us to fight the battle with the Word as our defense and offense. We should have a great sense of urgency to understand that God has not left us to our vices, arguments, and philosophies to fight back in this shattered world of evil, rather He has delivered the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God to fight our battles with. The great call to all of us as believers is this: "Take the sword!"

## Scripture - Ephesians 6 (focus 6:10-20)

Verse 17 - "...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

As you study this week, know that in this verse is a call to action. We are to take (receive, accept, take hold of) the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. We cannot do this with bibles sitting on our shelves and coffee tables simply collecting dust throughout the week. No, we must pull them out and use them regularly as we are in a daily battle. The more we study, the more we memorize, the more we learn scripture, the more prepared we are to draw the sword of the Spirit when the battles and temptations hit, which they will. Purpose the verses given in this study throughout the week. Study them, memorize them, dwell on them, pray on them, so that you are prepared to fight.

Further study: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12-13 & 4:14-16; Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13

## Key Terms

### Strong's Definition: "Word" in verse 17

Word: *rhēma* (*hray'-mah*) - an utterance (individually, collectively, or specifically); by implication a matter or topic (especially of narration, command, or dispute).that which is or has been uttered by the living voice, thing spoken, word

The greek word here is "rhēma", not to be confused with "logos" which is used in other areas of scripture to refer to the entire council of God's word which is in Jesus Christ. The focus of logos is the content of the message, while the focus of rhēma is the expression of that message. Rhēma is specific to the situation (eg. in a battle) because one has diligently spent time in the logos (entire word of God). Rhēma is a particular word (verse) that the Spirit gives you or brings to mind in the moment of battle, but it is always God's word that is given (it is scripture).

# Key Thoughts

"Take the sword! Take the sword! No longer is it, talk and debate! No longer is it, parley and compromise! The word of thunder is—Take the sword. The Captain's voice is clear as a trumpet—Take the sword! No Christian man here will have been obedient to our text unless with clear, sharp, and decisive firmness, courage, and resolve, he takes the sword. We must go to heaven sword in hand, all the way. "Take the sword." May the Holy Spirit help me!" - Spurgeon, C. H. (1891). The Sword of the Spirit. In The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Sermons (Vol. 37, p. 230). London: Passmore & Alabaster.

The average American owns 4.3 copies of the Bible, representing 85% of American Households. That number, if correct, places 450,000,000 copies of the sword of the Spirit, the word of God, in our country. Not including our devices. Yet the pain of consequences caused by decisions not impacted by the word of God is all around.

A false sense of familiarity with the word of God has transformed the sword of the Spirit from a weapon for war into a museum piece to stand behind a glass case, to be in awe of its history, its printing, its mark on history, yet, not allowing it to embark on a journey into our heart, soul, and mind.

There is a danger of false familiarity, but there is also (on the other side) a danger of a false sense of control over the word of God. Our relationship with God's Word must always be surrender, not control.

Familiarity	Control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● I don't have time to learn.</li><li>● I don't understand it.</li><li>● I get what I need on Sunday.</li><li>● I'll trust someone else to share it with me, not me spending my own time in the word of God.</li><li>● I've tried before, and I gave up.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● We become secluded from a broken world in need of the word of God</li><li>● Our bible studies become more about knowledge than wisdom</li><li>● More informational than transformational.</li><li>● Argumentative; aiming our sword at other believers</li></ul>

The sword of the Spirit, the word of God, will expose our sins. Our response is either confession/repentance OR anger/resentment. As we explore God's word, it explores the deepest parts of who we are and reveals the greatest need - confession leading to salvation through Jesus Christ. The sword of the Spirit, the word of God, will always point us back to Jesus.



# Scripture Study - Ephesians 6:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12-13 & 4:14-16; Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13

As you study the scripture verses provided this week, study for right context and for right questions.

## Right Context:

- The verse itself and key word(s) that stand out in the verse (meanings)
- The verses around the verse, the section of scripture, the chapter, the book, old/new testament, and relation to the rest of scripture
- Author and Date (Who wrote the book and when?)
- Audience (Who is the book written to? Main characters in the story and/or text?)
- Main points and overall purpose of the book
- Historical background, cultural significance, setting, people, rulers, etc.
- Scripture references; let scripture interpret scripture as much as possible

## Right Questions:

- What is this passage teaching me about God?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- What can I pray and trust God for regarding this passage?
- What actions must I take in response to this passage?
- How is this applicable to me?

## Reflect & Respond

Do you regularly take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God? What does this look like for you? Do you typically study for context and questions (see above)?

Is the sword of the Spirit revealing patterns of sin in your life? If so, what are they? Where have you seen it bring freedom?

Is the sword of the Spirit reconciling you to your savior, Jesus Christ? How so?

Are you holding fast to guilt or confession? (Guilt leads to distance from the LORD. Confession begins the healing.)

