

1 **ARMOR TIME: THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**

Ephesians 6:17: *"And take the . . . sword of the Spirit which is the word of God."*

2 **Defensive Armor**

• *"Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation. . ."*

3 **David and Goliath**4 **THE SWORD DESCRIBED**

- The Roman Soldier's Sword
- The Sword of the Spirit

5 **The Roman Soldier's Sword**6 **The Sword of the Spirit**

- It is *logos* – Hebrews 4:12: *"For the word (logos) of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*
- It is *rhema* – Ephesians 6:17: *"And take the . . . sword of the Spirit which is the word (rhema) of God."*

7 **The Distinction:**

- In Matthew 26:75 and Mark 14:72 the Bible says, *"And Peter remembered the word (rhema) of Jesus who had said to him, 'Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."*
- In Luke 22:61: *"And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word (logos) of the Lord, how He said to Him, 'Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."*

8 **THE SOURCE OF THE SWORD – THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17: *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
- 2 Peter 1:20-21: *". . . knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

9 **It Is a Powerful Sword**10 **IT IS A POWERFUL SWORD**

- Isaiah 55:10-11: *"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. God uses His word to save sinners."*

11 **Isaiah 6:9-10**

- Pharaoh
- *"Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'¹⁰ 'Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their*

heart, And return and be healed."

12 **God uses His word to convict us of sin.**

- C. H. Spurgeon: *"The Word of God in the hand of the Spirit wounds very terribly, and makes the heart of man to bleed. Do you not remember, some of you, when you used to be gashed with this sword Sunday after Sunday? Were you not cut to the heart by it, so as to be angry with it? You almost made up your mind to turn away from hearing the gospel again."*

13 **C. H. Spurgeon (2)**

- *"That sword pursued you, and pierced you in the secrets of your soul, and made you bleed in a thousand places. At last you were "pricked in the heart", which is a far better thing than being "cut to the heart"; and then execution was done, indeed. That wound was deadly, and none but he that killed could make you alive. Do you recollect how, after this, your sins were slain one after another?"*

14 **C. H. Spurgeon (3)**

- *"Their necks were laid on the block, and the Spirit acted as an executioner with his sword. After that, blessed be God, your fears, and doubts, and despair, and unbelief, were also hacked to pieces by this same sword. The Word gave you life; but it was at the first a great killer. Your soul was like a battle-field after a great fight, under the first operations of the divine Spirit, whose sword returneth not empty from the conflict."*

15 **God uses His word to save sinners.**

- James 1:18: *"Of His own will He brought us forth by the word (logos) of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures."*
- 1 Peter 1:23: *"Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word (logos) of God which lives and abides forever."*
- 1 Corinthians 1:18: *"For the message (logos) of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."*

16 **God uses His word to restore the soul.**

17 **God's word holds the mirror**

18 **God uses His word to renew and revive us.**

- Psalm 19:7: *"The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul."*
- V. 25 – *"My soul clings to the dust; Revive me according to Your word."*
- V. 50 – *"This is my comfort in my affliction. For Your word has given me life."*
- V. 154 – *"Plead my cause and redeem me; Revive me according to Your word"*
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19 **God uses His word to equip us to do the work of God.**

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17: *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

20 **THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT IS A DEFENSIVE WEAPON**

- Satan's attacks against the Christian – 1 Peter 5:8: *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."*
 - Scheming
 - Deceitful
 - Persistent

- 21 **The Savior's Example**
- (Matthew 4:3) *"If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."* Jesus answered, (Matthew 4:4) *"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word (rhema) that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"* (Deuteronomy 8:3).
- 22 **The Savior's Example (2)**
- The pinnacle of the temple
 - Satan himself quoted from Psalm 91:11-12: *For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you.' And, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'*
 - Jesus rebutted the devil in Matthew 4:7 by quoting Deuteronomy 6:16: *"It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"*
- 23 **The Savior's Example (3)**
- A high mountain
 - Matthew 4:9: *"All these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship me."*
 - Jesus in Matthew 4:10, quoting Deuteronomy 6:13: *"Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"*
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- 24 **The Secret for the Christian**
- Each time Jesus faced a temptation of Satan, He responded with a specific, appropriate Scripture (a *rhema*), and he quoted it verbatim.
 - Psalm 119:9: *How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according o Your word.*
 - Psalm 119:11: *Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.*
 - Psalm 119:16: *I will delight myself in Your statutes, I will not forget your word*
- 25 **The Secret for the Christian (2)**
- Psalm 119:59: *I thought about my ways, And turned my feet to Your testimonies.*
 - Psalm 119:92: *Unless your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction.*
 - Psalm 119:105: *Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*
- 26 **THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT IS AN OFFENSIVE WEAPON**
- In preaching
 - 2 Timothy 4:2-4 Paul warned Timothy about this danger. ² *"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*
- 27 **Expository Preaching**
- Every great revival in church history has been sustained by a return to the expository preaching of God's Word.
 - Middle Ages – Ritual Mass
 - Reformation – Return to Expository preaching
 - Today – Seeker Church movement – Topical Sermons – Entertainment
 - Need – Return to Expository preaching of the Word!
- 28 **An Offensive Weapon**
- In Evangelism

- One of the most effective gospel "tracts" that you can give to anyone is the Gospel of John.
- John 20:31: *"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."*