

“The Sword of the Spirit”  
*Ephesians 6:17*

**“... and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;” (Ephesians 6:17b NKJ)”**

The Word of God is called “the sword of the Spirit both because the Holy Spirit is the Author of it, He is the Sword smith WHO made it  
And

Because it is His chosen weapon, the Word of God is that which the Holy Spirit makes most EFFECTUAL, that which is most POWERFUL as a weapon for advancing God’s Kingdom against the realm of Satan

...

There are a number of things I can say in praise of God’s Word today that will not be said, because today I want to EMPHASIZE IT’s POWER

*I. Consider the POWER of words in general –*

**Death and life are in the power of the tongue ... (Proverbs 18:21 NKJ)**

1. *Our world is FULL of examples of this:*

*Consider Friedrich Nietzsche born 1844 – died 1900*

*His writings continue to influence today*

*He wrote about the “death of God” and the “Ubermensch” (Superman)*

*Nietzsche said such things as:*

- Fear is the mother of morality.
- God is dead
- In heaven all the interesting people are missing.
- In truth, there was only one Christian, and he died on the cross.
- Morality is herd instinct in the individual.
- Christianity is called the religion of pity.

2. *His writings were favorites of Hitler who dreamed of a race of Ubermensch / supermen and brought the words of Nietzsche to reality by murdering 6 million Jews. He thought he would speed up evolution (another false teaching) by avoiding pity and killing those he deemed pitiful!*

3. *Yet other better words were a part of Hitler's undoing, the inspiring words of Winston Churchill -*

Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail.

We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France,

**we shall fight** on the seas and oceans,

**we shall fight** with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be,

**we shall fight on the beaches,**

**we shall fight** on the landing grounds,

**we shall fight** in the fields and in the streets,

**we shall fight** in the hills;

**we shall never surrender**, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old."

4. *Yet it is not only famous or infamous people's words that have POWER –*

*James Dobson tells of a woman, greatly disturbed*

*When her father left her mother --- He said to her the daughter*

*The reason I am leaving your mother is because I cannot stand to live with such an ugly child*

*Maybe we have said such words to someone? Maybe the opposite, maybe we said something good?*

## *II. Consider the POWER of our enemy's (Satan's) words –*

**"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8:44 NKJ)**

*1. Satan's words (lies) were and are POWERFUL in the most dreadful and deadly way –*

*A. He asks Eve –*

**Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" (Genesis 3:1 NKJ)**

*B. He follows this question with a crafty lie –*

**Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:4-5 NKJ)**

*2. His line of lying reasoning led to Adam and Eve's eating of the forbidden fruit and the plunging of the human race into a sinful death cycle! In **Genesis 5** we read over and over again – **"and He died"***

*3. According to this same Letter to the Ephesians the entire world, other than Christians were spiritual ZOMBIES!*

**And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJ)**

*4. Satan's goal in spiritual warfare is our death and destruction –*

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. (John 10:10 NKJ)

5. *Even today he has new words to describe old sins –*

- *Sodomy or homosexuality is called “gay”*
- *Murder is renamed “pro-choice”*
- *Righteousness is termed “homophobia”*
- *Lying itself is merely “politics” / sometimes preaching “peace, peace when there is no peace”*

### *III. Yet we have the SWORD of the SPIRIT, the WORD of God!*

1. *Such a weapon is a MUST for spiritual warfare –*

**"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (Joshua 1:8 NKJ)**

2. *It is the SHARPEST SWORD around –*

**For the word 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. (Hebrews 4:12 NKJ)**

A. *Other swords may be sharp but NOT “living and powerful”*

*The Ninhoto Katana sword is said by many to be the sharpest sword in the world. Forged by a sword smith named Amakuni this sword could chop through eight prisoners with one swing.*

B. *Yet the Bible is sharper than any two edged sword, “piercing even to the division of soul and spirit”*

C. *We see this sword in action in **Acts 2** with Peter’s first recorded sermon – **Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to***

Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men **and** brethren, what shall we do?" <sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:37-38 NKJ)

*D. Supposedly 3,000 "were cut to the heart" at once – Acts 2:41*

3. *Yet the wonderful thing about this WORD / SWORD is it CUTS and brings life rather than kills*

**"And you He made alive" Ephesians 2:1**

**"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63 NKJ)**

*We are new creatures; we are changed by the Word of God from spiritual Zombies and babes of Satan into God's dear children!*

4. *Faith comes by hearing the Word –*

**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17 NKJ)**

5. *God's Word is our sword for battles with sin and Satan –*

**Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You! (Psalm 119:11 NKJ)**

**Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. <sup>3</sup> Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." <sup>4</sup> But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'**

**When Jesus said that He was quoting from Deuteronomy 8!**

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**The Word of God brings God's blessing and favor into our lives**

**Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor**

**stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2 NKJ)**

This blessing can come not only to individuals but it can spread even to nations and beyond nations!

**In the early 1700s the Devil seemed to have England under his total control:**

**1. The dominate teaching in most churches was a philosophy called deism, which basically said God created the world and then left it. According to the deists God was no more than a creative force.**

**2. Churches, therefore, were corrupt, and the nation without spiritual or moral leadership , was faltering fast! Morality was despised! Virtually non-existent!**

**3. The nation was known for the gin-craze, every sixth house in London had become a gin shop!**

**4. The national pastimes were games involving the torture and killing of animals, crime had run rampant, to the point that 160 crimes were punishable by death. The moral low sunk to the degree that hangings became gala events.**

**5. The nation was characterized by: the rule of the mob, nick-named “Sir Mob”, child-abuse, poverty, alcoholism, and rat infested over-crowded prisons!**

**Yet in the midst of this ....**

**“a religious revival burst forth ... which changed in a few years the whole temper of the English society. The church was restored to life and activity. Religion carried to the hearts of the people a fresh spirit of moral zeal, while it purified our literature and manners. A new philanthropy**

**reformed our prisons, infused clemency and wisdom into our penal laws, abolished the slave trade, and gave the first impulse to popular education.” J.R. Green - A Short History of the English People.**

What happened? Where did the Devil’s fool proof plan fail?

1st, God – Our God is the WHY? / He is the Reason! All revival starts with the Spirit of God!

2nd, God’s man -- George Whitefield, a study of the history of this revival shows that his open-air preaching was truly its most direct human spark!

3<sup>rd</sup> NOTE it was simple PREACHING of Scripture that changed England’s society!

A revival of hearing, reading, studying, preaching and sharing God’s Holy WORD the Bible

Let us pray!

**Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You? <sup>7</sup> Show us Your mercy, LORD, And grant us Your salvation.**