

# USE YOUR SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

## SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

- Offensive Weapon
- Defensive Blocking
- Close Encounters

## God's Body Armor

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:13-17 (NLT2)

## Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God

"Hold up your sword," I heard in Christian groups. The Bibles would be held up.

The passage in Ephesians uses the armor of a warrior as a means of communicating spiritual truth. A physical illustration of a spiritual reality. Belt of truth, body armor of God's righteousness, shoes of the peace of the Gospel, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, do you see it, a physical illustration of a spiritual truth?

## The Word of God as Communication from God

The next piece of equipment mentioned in this list is the sword of the Spirit. The sword of the Spirit, the word of God, is a continuation of a physical item representing a spiritual reality. What does the sword of the Spirit represent? The Bible? A physical item, a book of God's truth, but not in keeping with the spiritual flow presented in the list. Is the word of God the physical book or the Spirit's communication of God's word?

## Words for WORD

### Rhema

The Greek word translated WORD in Ephesians 6:17 is rhema. (rhéō, "to speak") – a spoken word, made "by the living voice" (J. Thayer)

### Logos

Logos, another Greek word translated WORD can refer to the spoken, written or living WORD. Christ is the Logos (John chapter 1).

## Word for the Written WORD

When the Bible refers to written Scripture it can use various terms. The Greek term used in 2 Timothy 3:16 is *graphe*, translated Scripture. *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.* 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT2)

*Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.* 2 Peter 1:20-21 (NLT2)

## The Dynamic Word of God

*For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.*

*Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.* Hebrews 4:12-13 (NLT2)

The Sword of the Spirit is God's word, alive and powerful.

God is the one to whom we are accountable, not the devil, not your family or social group. The enemy is the accuser and finds things to drag you down, to try to hide your innermost thoughts and desires, darkness, and regrets from God, but God already knows. His word will reveal it all.

## Use the Sword of the Spirit

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Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.

In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and **take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.** Ephesians 6:13-17 (NLT2)

## Are you taking up the sword of the Spirit, the word of God?

- What battle have you been fighting, flesh-and blood or spiritual?
- What strategies of the devil have you battled?
- How many times have you tried to stand on your own and not with the Sword of the Spirit in hand?
- What kind of spiritual sword training have you done in the last few weeks?