USE YOUR SWORD OF THE SPIRIT-Part 3

# SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

Effective weapon against the enemy

Training and practice are necessary

# 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)

# Basics of Spiritual Sword Training

* Spiritual Conditioning
* Mental Awareness
* Strategic Acuity
* Proficiency Training

# Enter the Battle

* **Assurance of God’s plan** (Nehemiah 2:12)
	+ I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem. We took no pack animals with us except the donkey I was riding. Nehemiah 2:12 (NLT2)
* **Reliance on the Strength of the Lord** (Nehemiah 2:20)
	+ I replied, “The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding this wall. But you have no share, legal right, or historic claim in Jerusalem.” Nehemiah 2:20 (NLT2)
* **Working the** **plan** (Nehemiah 3)
	+ Various groups and families pulling together to complete the wall of Jerusalem

# Stay the Course

* **Overcome doubt** (Nehemiah 4:3-6)
	+ Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, “That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!” Then I prayed, “Hear us, our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads, and may they themselves become captives in a foreign land! Do not ignore their guilt. Do not blot out their sins, for they have provoked you to anger here in front of the builders.” At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm. Nehemiah 4:3-6 (NLT2)
* **Be on guard with your sword** (Nehemiah 4:12-14)
	+ The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, “They will come from all directions and attack us!” So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows. Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, “Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!” Nehemiah 4:12-14 (NLT2)
* **Do the work and be ready to fight** (Nehemiah 4:15-18)
	+ When our enemies heard that we knew of their plans and that God had frustrated them, we all returned to our work on the wall. But from then on, only half my men worked while the other half stood guard with spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. The leaders stationed themselves behind the people of Judah who were building the wall. The laborers carried on their work with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon. All the builders had a sword belted to their side. The trumpeter stayed with me to sound the alarm. Nehemiah 4:15-18 (NLT2)
* **Give and do not demand** (Nehemiah 5)
	+ People who had resources were taking advantage of those who did not. Nehemiah and his team gave and demanded others give too.
* **Beware of false accusations and counsel** (Nehemiah 6)
	+ But I replied, “Should someone in my position run from danger? Should someone in my position enter the Temple to save his life? No, I won’t do it!” I realized that God had not spoken to him, but that he had uttered this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. They were hoping to intimidate me and make me sin. Then they would be able to accuse and discredit me. Nehemiah 6:11-13 (NLT2)
* **Accomplish what God says in his strength** (Nehemiah 6:15-16)
	+ So on October 2 the wall was finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun. When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God. Nehemiah 6:15-16 (NLT2)

# Things to Consider

* Have you entered the battle?
* Are you staying the course?
* Where are you in your spiritual sword training?