

The Armor of God – part 4

Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ 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, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

Recap

The Sword of the Spirit

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

- So far, all the pieces have been armor that we wear that may enable us to enter the fight, but ultimately are there to keep the enemy from hurting us.
- Recap
- The Sword is an offensive weapon. And it is the word of God.
- Recognize that the Word of God is directly from the Spirit of God and are God's very words. Meditate on that fact.
- The word here is Rhema or utterance. This is speaking the Word of God.

Last week we looked at this passage:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that

exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ

- The Sword of the Spirit is how this is accomplished. The way we fight all of these kinds of strongholds, arguments, imaginations is not with reasoning our way out, but through the Word of God.

When Jesus was attacked by Satan in the wilderness, He used the Word of God to defeat the enemy

- **Matthew 4:10-11** Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘*You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.*’ ”¹¹ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

God Himself uses the Sword of the Spirit

- **Isaiah 27:1** In that day the LORD with His severe sword, great and strong, Will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan that twisted serpent; And He will slay the reptile that *is* in the sea.
- **Revelation 1:16** He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength.

Know the Word. Study the Word. Meditate on the Word.

Psalms 119:11-17 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.¹² Blessed *are* You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes.¹³ With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth.¹⁴ I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As *much as* in all riches.¹⁵ I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.¹⁶ I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.¹⁷ Deal bountifully with Your servant, *That* I may live and keep Your word.

Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

- Paul end this by encouraging believers to pray, to pray in the Spirit, to be watchful, and to pray for others. We are in this fight together!

Using our weapons

Think of Spiritual warfare as using an ICBM. A missile to deliver a warhead.

1. Name - **Philippians 2:9-11** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 - a. What is the Name? – It is simply a characteristic of God
 - b. Ryan – Dignity
 - c. Tina – Believer
 - d. Why do we name our children what we name them?
 - i. We like the sound
 - ii. We know someone else with that name
 - iii. We like the meaning
 - e. Names are important to God.
 - i. Abram → Abraham: **Genesis 17:3-5** Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: ⁴ “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

- ii. Simon → Peter: **John 1:41-42** He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ).⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, A Stone).
- iii. Many people gave God a new name when God revealed Himself: **Genesis 22:11-14** But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” So he said, “Here I am.”¹² And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, “In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”
- f. The Name of Jesus is an actual weapon. Why? Because a Name is who God says He is.
- g. When to use this – When the attack is focused on destroying us through circumstances, frustrations or failures.
 - i. The Lord is my Peace. The Lord is my Provider. The Lord is my deliverer. He is All Sufficient. He is the One that makes a Way.
- 2. Blood - **Revelation 12:11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.
 - a. Blood provides 4 things – Redemption and Forgiveness and Justification and Sanctification
 - b. Redeemed = Purchased. **Ephesians 1:7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

- c. This is so important that it is a part of communion.
 - d. When do we use this? When the attack is focused on our relationship with Christ or on our Identity. You aren't worthy, you aren't good enough, you'll never get past that sin in your life...
 - e. The blood has made me right with God. The blood has cleansed my conscience. The Blood has disarmed the enemy.
3. Word – The temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness. Jesus used the Word to defeat Satan every time.
- a. The Word reminds us of God's Promises
 - b. It helps us to come into agreement with Him
 - c. It develops faith in us **Romans 10:17** So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
 - d. When to use this? All the time. This really encompasses everything.

How do we deliver those weapons?

3 ICBM's for delivering those warheads:

1. Prayer
 - a. Talking with God.
 - b. Listening to God
2. Proclamation
 - a. Speaking it
 - b. Preaching it
 - c. Teaching it
 - d. Testimony
3. Praise and Worship
 - a. Praise

b. Worship

c. Thanksgiving

Learn to combine a method of delivery with a warhead.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Use the appropriate weapon with the appropriate delivery system.