

Spiritual Warfare 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.

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

- The other pieces of the armor are to prevent you from being harmed by the enemy.
- But swords, while they can be defensive, are primarily designed to drive the enemy away.
- This is again an active piece, just like the shield of faith.
- That means we have to do something with it.

The name of the sword is The Sword of the Spirit.

- There is a thing for naming swords. – Excaliber, Clarent, Anduril, Glamdring.

- Why were swords named? – Because the sword carried with it a reputation. So no matter who wielded it, the enemy knew that the power was not in the person, but the weapon.

And it also says that the Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God.

- It is not the word of reason
- It is not the word of our culture
- It is not the word of psychology

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.

The Word of God has real power.

Isaiah 55:11 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.

Hebrews 4:12 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.

- It can tell you what is from God and what is an invention of man.
- It separates what is from our spirit and what is just reasoning.

Matthew 4:4 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.*' "

- It is as needed for our soul as food is for our body.

How do we wield the Sword of the Spirit?

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.

- Your word I have hidden in my heart - Read the Word of God.

- Read with the intent of getting it into your heart
- I will meditate on Your precepts – Meditate on God's Word.
 - Keep bringing it up throughout your day
 - Talk it over with others
- Teach me Your statutes – Study the Word. Especially areas you either struggle with or are difficult to understand.

Allow it to shape your worldview

- **Colossians 2:8** Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.
- **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.

Be like Jesus and use the Word of God to battle all temptations that the enemy throws at us

- Declare the Word of God
- Live out the Word of God

Prayer 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 ends 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!
 - Prayer is how we actually fight the battle. It is how we put these things into action.
 - Positive thinking, psychology, intelligence will not defeat the enemy. Prayer will.
- Praying always – There is nothing in life that we should not be praying about.

- Prayer is talking with God. We talk out things with our spouse, much more with God.
 - Pray at all times. It should be a natural part of our lives. Dedicated prayer time and throughout the day.
- All prayer– all types of prayer – public, private, closet prayer, praying in the spirit, praying with understanding.
- Supplication = ask. Bring your needs to Him. Plead the promises of God to Him.
 - Thinking about your problems can bring anxiety – but praying brings peace.
 - **Philippians 4:6-7** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- With all perseverance – don't give up. Keep on praying. Even when you don't feel spiritual. Even when it seems to not be working.
- Being watchful
 - **Matthew 26:41** Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."
- Pray for all the saints – Pray for each other. Christianity is about others.