

## The Sword of the Spirit

**THE CHRISTIAN BATTLE** is not against people, political issues, or ideologies, etc. but against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age, and spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. That is our real battle!

Ephesians 6:10-18 tells us that we are to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might by putting on the whole armor of God. Clothed in this armor, we are then able to stand against the schemes and the strategy of the devil.

But the Armor of God is not necessarily the battle gear we wear (helmet, shield, sword, etc.) but **spiritual characteristics we learn to live and walk in.**

Based on the original Greek words. here is the armor explained in another way...

(Belt) Have a 360 degree view of reality and understand what is really taking place. *Example of Elisha and the chariots of fire and Peter in the garden.*

(Breastplate) Have a right heart before God, clean of fleshly or worldly attitudes that satan can hold on to.

(Shoes) Walk in God's peace and be prepared for anything.

(Shield) In faith, stop all the fiery lies and temptations of the wicked one.

(Helmet) Have the expectation of God's salvation no matter what situations looks like. Expect victory.

(Sword) Then, use a specific Rhema Word of God and apply it accurately to a specific lie of the enemy.

Having put on the armor, watch and pray for God's people with endurance and perseverance.

### **THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**

1. Here the sword is the Word of God. But not only God's word itself but a very specific Word from the Word.
  - A. This "Word of God" is the Greek word, **Rhema**, the subject matter of the Word, the personal revelation of the Logos, the Word of God. That which the Holy Spirit has made real to you.

B. KEY -- The Rhema Word of God is a specific Word that is applied accurately to a specific lie of the enemy.

2. This is clearly illustrated in **Matthew 4:1-11** as Jesus battled Satan in the desert! Notice that Satan did not begin his attacks until 40 days later, Jesus began to hunger or starve!

Jesus, in His weakest state and in a desert, conquered the three attacks of Satan using Old Testament Scriptures accurately addressing the temptation!

**The first temptation** was to act independently of His Father.

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."*

- Jesus used the Rhema to combat satan's attack. *"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"* (Deuteronomy 8:3)

**The second temptation** was to test God's faithfulness, to see if He will keep His Word.

*...and he (Satan) said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" (Psalm 91:11-12)*

- Jesus said to him, *"It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"* (Deuteronomy 6:16)

**The third temptation** was to worship satan, himself.

*And he (Satan) said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."*

- Jesus used the appropriate Scripture, *"it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"* (Deuteronomy 6:13)

*11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.*

### 3. How do I use God's Word against the devil when he attacks me?

#### A. First, we must understand AND believe that God's Word is the ONLY weapon effective against the devil!

**1 John 5:19** *We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.*

The WHOLE WORLD is under the power of the devil! With NO hope. They are slaves to his doing and have NO defense and NO answers. Period!!!

But here's the good news: when God's Word abides in us (it remains, and we live according to it) we HAVE (ALREADY) overcome the wicked one!!!

**1 John 2:13-14** *I write to you, (young men, person), because you have overcome the wicked one... I have written to you, (young men, person), because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.*

God's Word IN US (believing, living and speaking) gives us the victory to overcome satan.

**Luke 10:19** *Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.*

#### B. To defeat this enemy, we must first allow the Word must work on and in us before we can use it on the enemy. We cannot rely on methodology. We have to believe and agree with God's Word! Every part of God's Word.

#### C. Then we must learn to apply the correct Scripture against a specific attack or lie from the enemy.

#### HERE ARE EXAMPLES...

- **Fear** – 2 Timothy 1:7 *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*
- **Anxiety** – 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.*

- **No provision** – Matthew 6:33 (Satan, I am seeking) *first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*
- **No peace** – John 16:33 *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”*
- **No answer to prayer** – 1 John 5:14-15 *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*
- **God will not forgive your sin** – 1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*  
Psalm 103:11-14 *For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.*

## **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

1. Prayer for you as you use His Word with effectiveness!
2. Prayer of salvation.

Dear Jesus, I know that I'm a sinner and I need Your forgiveness for going my own way. I believe that you gave Your life and died on the cross in my place. I believe that you rose from the grave victorious over death! I invite You to come into my life as my personal Savior. Take away my sin and be the Lord of my life. Fill me with your Holy Spirit so that I can serve you with my whole heart! Thank You for giving me eternal life! Amen