

**"The Practice of the Believer"**

**Ephesians 4-6**

**Part 34**

**Introduction:** Today in our study of Ephesians we have come to the last article of the Armour of God. Let me give you a few reminders of what we have looked at.

**Notice Ephesians 6:11, 13**

Two times we are told to put on the WHOLE armour of God. Each article of this armour is vitally important for the believer.

**Notice Ephesians 6:11-12**

We are in a spiritual war with Satan and his demonic counterparts. Our responsibility is to fulfill the Great Commission and that is to preach the Gospel to the lost. We are called to snatch people out of the grasp of Satan and pull them into the family of God.

**Colossians 1:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:*

<sup>13</sup> *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

<sup>14</sup> *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

Satan's goal is to keep us from being effective in fulfilling the Great Commission. He attempts to do this in many ways.

- a. He will try his best to get us consumed with worry or some other matter so that something else will keep us from being effective.
- b. He will attempt to lead us down a path of sin so that we are powerless in serving the Lord.
- c. He will try to deceive us with false teaching leading us into confusion.

In order to be protected from the attacks of the enemy, God has given to us His Armour, but it must.

**1. The Girdle of Truth**

2. The Breast Plate of Righteousness
3. The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace
4. The Shield of Faith
5. The Helmet of Salvation
6. The Sword of the Spirit

**Notice Ephesians 6:17**

Immediately upon reading this verse we are told what the Sword of the Spirit is. It is the Word of God. There is much here for us to consider before we look at the application.

**A. The Purpose**

All the other articles of Armour were for the purpose of protecting a certain part of the soldier. This article is not so. This article is for the purpose of defense to keep the enemy back. But this article of Armour is also for offense. This is the only weapon that the believer is given to use in the battle that we are in. The Sword is to be used to protect us against the attacks of the Devil and it is also to be used to push our enemy back and keep him at a distance. Therefore it is both defensive and an offensive. It is the **ONLY** weapon that will work against the Devil to stop him and to keep him at bay. With the Sword we can not only repel the enemy, but we can also attack him.

This article of armour is so important in that with it, we can drive the enemy away from us.

**James 4:7b**

**Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

Now with this thought I need to make something very clear. This does not mean that we take our enemy lightly. It does not mean that we become over confident when facing the enemy. He is the most powerful created being that has ever existed. To become over confident or to take his power lightly is to set yourself up for defeat.

**1 Corinthians 10:12**

<sup>12</sup> *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

We must understand the power of our enemy and we must not be overconfident when facing the enemy. If we face the enemy with over confidence, I can assure you that he will shred us in the spiritual battle. He will defeat us so quickly that we will be left standing wondering what happened. **Sure we can defend against his attacks, and we can cause him to flee with the means that God has given us, but on our own we are no match for him.**

But we must not be terrified of him. We must stand against him in the power of God's might.

**Ephesians 6:10**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

So there needs to be a balance with how we face our enemy.

**B. The Source and its Meaning.**

- It is called the Sword of the Spirit because it is the Spirit who inspired the writers.

**2 Peter 1:21**

<sup>21</sup> For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

<sup>17</sup> That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

The Scriptures were given by the Holy Spirit as He moved the writers along with what they were to record. Therefore, it is called the Sword of the Spirit. **I want you to notice that the Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God and NOT the WORDS that come from God.**

There are those who claim to get a word from God for specific purposes. They will say that God gave them a word meaning that God gave them certain words to speak in a certain situation. That is mysticism and it is of the Devil. I can say this because God does not give any new words of revelation today. We have the completed Bible, and it is the Sword of the Spirit. Remember when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness?

**Matthew 4:3, 4, 7, 10**

<sup>3</sup> And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

<sup>4</sup> But he answered and said, **It is written**, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said unto him, **It is written again**, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

<sup>10</sup> Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: **for it is written**, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

You see what Jesus did? He quoted the Word that was already established. I show you this so that you will see that the Sword is the Word of God. Not the words that come from God.

- **It is also called the Sword of the Spirit because it is the Spirit that enables us to understand the Word of God.**

### **2 Corinthians 2:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

<sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but **the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.**

<sup>13</sup> Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, **but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

### **2 Corinthians 2:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

<sup>10</sup> But God hath revealed them unto us **by his Spirit**: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to understand the Word of God. So it is the Sword of the Spirit.

**Application:**

**This now raises a question, "What is the difference in the Sword of the Spirit and the Girdle of Truth?"**

To the casual reader they would appear to be the same. But they are not. Because this 6<sup>th</sup> article is called the Sword of the Spirit that tells us that we must be walking in the power of the Spirit for it to be effective. This is yet another reason why it is called the Sword of the Spirit. The girdle of Truth is to know the Truth of the Word. A believer can know the Word of God and yet not have the ability to defend against the Devil because they are not walking in the power of the Spirit. To be walking in the power of the Spirit is to walk in obedience to the Word of God. There are many who know the Word, but they are not living the Word and for the reason the Spirit is grieved.

**Ephesians 4:25-30**

<sup>25</sup> *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.*

<sup>26</sup> *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:*

<sup>27</sup> *Neither give place to the devil.*

<sup>28</sup> *Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*

<sup>29</sup> *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

<sup>30</sup> **And grieve not the holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Let me show you again the account of Jesus in the wilderness.

**Matthew 4:1-3a, 11**

*Then was Jesus **led up of the Spirit** into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*

<sup>2</sup> *And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.*

<sup>3</sup> *And when the tempter came to him,*

<sup>11</sup> **Then the devil leaveth him**, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Jesus was led up of the Spirit. Because He was walking in **obedience** the Sword of the Spirit was effective in driving away the Devil.

Let us notice the power of the Spirit through the Sword of the Spirit in the early church.

**Acts 2:3-4a, 14, 37, 41**

<sup>3</sup> *And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*

<sup>4</sup> *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost,*

<sup>14</sup> *But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:*

<sup>37</sup> *Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*

<sup>41</sup> *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

In Acts 3 Peter preached his second sermon and he wielded the Sword mightily.

**Acts 3:12**

<sup>12</sup> *And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?*

**Acts 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> *Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.*

Then in Acts 6 and 7 we see another man full of the Spirit wielding the Sword with profound impact.

**Acts 6:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> *And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.*

<sup>9</sup> *Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.*

<sup>10</sup> *And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.*

**Acts 7:54-55**

<sup>54</sup> *When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.*

<sup>55</sup> *But he, **being full of the Holy Ghost**, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,*

**Conclusion:**

To use the Sword of the Spirit we must have an understanding of the Word. Just as with any soldier he or she must be familiar with their weapon, and they must practice. They must develop muscle memory to become accurate. With the believer we must know the Word of God and we must know how to use the Sword. We must develop spiritual muscle memory. As you study you will develop (by the power of the Spirit) the ability to know how to use the Sword of the Spirit.

Let us notice what happens when we do not know the Word nor how to use the Sword.

**Genesis 3:1-4**

*Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

<sup>2</sup> *And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:*

<sup>3</sup> *But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

<sup>4</sup> *And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*