

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Christian's Holy War

The Sword of the SPIRIT – Word of God

Ephesians 6:10-18 ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done

everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

The Sword of the Spirit ^{Ephesians 6:17b} is the sixth and only offensive weapon in the Armor of God. These notes will explore the multiple meanings and symbols of Swords in the Bible, as well as investigate the supreme importance of the Word of God.

The word "Sword" appears in the Bible over 400 times throughout Scripture. ^{86 times in Ezekiel}

All OT references to a Sword are from a Hebrew word (*chereb*) that refers to everything from a short dagger to a long sword. However, most NT references to a Sword are from the Greek word meaning a daggerlike sword (*machaira*), but the few uses of the long sword (*rhomphaia*) are noted.

As with all God's Armor, the Sword was critical for the earthly soldier in Biblical times. ^{1 Chronicles 5:18}

The Sword is found in the Bible as a symbol of man's strength.

Genesis 27:38-40 Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father!" Then Esau wept aloud. His father Isaac answered him, "Your dwelling will be away from the earth's richness, away from the dew of heaven above. You will live by the sword and you will serve your brother. But when you grow restless, you will throw his yoke from off your neck."

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The Sword also symbolizes God's strength: used by God, angels [Genesis 3:22-24](#) and man [Exodus 17:8,13](#).
Numbers 22:31 (21-35) Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown.

In addition, the Sword is a symbol of man's (often incorrect) judgement.

Genesis 34:25-26 Three days later, while all of them were still in pain, two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and attacked the unsuspecting city, killing every male. They put Hamor and his son Shechem to the sword and took Dinah from Shechem's house and left.

But, the Sword is also symbol of God's (always righteous) judgement. [Joshua 6:21, 10:32, Job 36:8-12](#)

Isaiah 1:19-20 "If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

The following verses refer to Jesus' perfect judgement from His mouth (*rhomphaia*: long sword).

Revelation 1:16 In his right hand [Jesus] held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. [Revelation 2:12,16, 19:15,21](#)

It is vital for man to recognize the difference between his strength and God's strength. [1 Samuel 17:45-47](#)

Psalms 44:6-7 I do not trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory; but you give (God gives) us victory over our enemies, you put (God puts) our adversaries to shame.

When man tries to live in his own strength (sword), he will eventually die by God's strength (sword).

Matthew 26:52 Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. With that, one of Jesus' companions (Peter [John 18:10](#)) reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword."

There is Great Power in God's Word: the Truth of the Bible.

The Word of the LORD is not only perfect, but also eternal.

2 Samuel 22:31a As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. [Psalm 18:30a](#)

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.

The Bible is the complete Word (*logos*) of God, that contains Swords (*rhēma*). In order for a life to have the power of God, the *logos* in the Mind [1 Peter 1:23](#) must also become the *rhēma* in the Heart.

Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Please forward questions/concerns about these notes to ron price, pricegang@integrity.com, 505-294-4743.

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The Response to Peter's Teaching of God's Word at Pentecost is a Positive Example of Conviction.

Acts 2:14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say..."

Acts 2:36-37 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord & Christ." When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

However, the Sanhedrin Reacted with Hate to the Word Proclaimed by Peter and the Apostles.

Acts 5:30-33 "The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead - whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." When [the Sanhedrin] heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

The Model Use of the Sword of the Spirit is Jesus' Response to the Devil's Temptations.

The Father Anointed Jesus as Messiah; Jesus then went into the Desert where Satan Tempted Him.

Matthew 3:16-17 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 4:1-11 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "**It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'**" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "**It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'**" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down & worship me." Jesus said to him, "**Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'**" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

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The Phrase “Word of God” is Synonymous with “Jesus, Son of God”.

John 1:1,14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ...
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Revelation 19:13 [Jesus] is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

Hebrews makes it clear How the Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit. Matthew 10:34

Hebrews 4:12 The word of God is living & active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Combining the physical/spiritual aspects of the Sword of the Spirit’s power/protection with the solid foundation of the Word of God provides all the firepower the Spirit-filled Christian needs to face the enemy in the Spiritual Warfare ever-present in Earthly life.

Genesis 3:22-24 And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”
So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Exodus 17:8,13 The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. ... So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

Joshua 6:21 They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it – men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys. Deuteronomy 20:16

Job 36:8-12 But if men are bound in chains, held fast by cords of affliction, he tells them what they have done – that they have sinned arrogantly. He makes them listen to correction and commands them to repent of their evil. If they obey and serve him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment. But if they do not listen, they will perish by the sword and die without knowledge.

Matthew 10:34 [Jesus said:] “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

1 Peter 1:23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

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