

## The Whole Armor of God (Part 6—The Sword of the Spirit)

### Scripture

“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. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;” (Eph 6:13-17 NKJV)

### Devotion

The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. It is the only offensive weapon mentioned in the battle array. While much can be made about yielding the sword to counter the influences of the world in the world, again, I would like us to look at how important it is for our lives. Remember, the command is to stand firm against all the fiery darts of the wicked, and so the sword must strike inwardly first.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 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, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.” (2Co 10:3-6 NKJV)

As the above passage says, we will be ready to punish all disobedience when our obedience is fulfilled. The sword of the Spirit is the perfect weapon for this task. “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.” (Heb 4:12 NKJV)

It is only when we silhouette our lives against the Word of God that we accurately see those areas that are outside the will of God. We simply can't trust our own discernment because the flesh is weak. “The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], And desperately wicked; Who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9 NKJV) The answer to this question is only God. However, we may see much more accurately by comparing our life to the perfect standard. If we compare ourselves to each other we will surely be deceived.

As David said, “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!” (Ps 119:11 NKJV) This is the key to a life of holiness. As painful as this medicine might be for some of you, you must be diligent with your personal devotions. Take note that the Bible is clear when it says, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” (Gal. 6:7-8 NKJV)

My dear friend, please take time to feed your soul. You sin from within. The only way to counter the flesh is to feed the spirit. “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.” (Jas 1:14-18 NKJV)

Dear pilgrim, take up the Word of God; stop grasping for wind and you will find that for which you look. You shall have success. You shall have peace.

“Blessed [is] the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly [are] not so, But [are] like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.” (Ps 1:1-6 NKJV)

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.” (1Jo 5:21 NKJV)