

The Sword

[Eph 6:17 ESV] 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

I. Intro

- A. Work to put on truth
- B. Receive Righteousness
- C. Work for readiness
- D. Hide behind the shield
- E. Accept salvation
- F. And the word of God!
- G. The sword is to be received...its been gifted to you!

II. Text

A. Take the sword

1. The sword is both an offensive and defensive weapon used by soldiers or warriors. In this case it is a weapon belonging to the Holy Spirit. Swords were used to protect oneself from harm or to attack the enemy to overcome or kill him. In both cases it was necessary for a soldier to get rigid training on the proper use of the sword to get maximum protection. All Christian soldiers need the same rigid training to know how to properly handle the Sword of the Spirit, "which is the word of God." The sword that Paul refers to here is the Holy Scriptures.
2. The image here is of an armor bearer helping the soldier put on the elements of the armor, and last to put in place is the helmet and shield, handed to the soldier by the armor bearer.
3. The Sword:
 - a) Greek word "machaira"
 - b) This describes a very small, light, and razor sharp sword
 - c) 14-18 inches long, and not very wide.
 - d) You had to be close in combat for this to be effective
 - e) Different from the gladius carried by the roman soldier, this would have been easy to conceal.
4. A short sword could be used for offense, but would have primarily been a defensive weapon
5. But, lets not forget, Paul is illustrating the Spiritual battle
 - a) Spiritual battles are usually fought at close range
 - b) We need to be prepared at close range.

B. Of the Spirit

1. The sword of the Spirit
2. The Spirit's work is sharp and active
3. But best used to defend the truth at close range...relationship.
4. The Spirit works through you to reach those you have invested in.

C. Which is the WORD OF GOD!

1. The word here for word:
 - a) Rhema: that which is or has been uttered by the living voice, thing spoken, word
 - b) Different word than logos, but similar in definition
 - c) Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words that explains the passage "Here the reference is not to the whole Bible as such, but to the individual scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in time of need, a prerequisite being the regular storing of the mind with scripture".
 - d) LOGOS: Big picture concept for WORD
 - e) RHEMA: Direct application of THE WORD: the words that came from God
2. [Isa 55:10-11 ESV] 10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my

mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

3. We do not have to improve on the word of God
4. We do not have to make it interesting in order to be effective
5. We just have to proclaim it, in fullness, and invest in the process
6. God brings the text to mind, and we deploy it for the situation.
7. I had a friend...
 - a) He said rather than know a bunch of different scripture, he would rather know just a few but know them well.
 - b) I say...KNOW THE WORD, STUDY UNTIL YOU ARE TAKEN HOME, You never know when you will have a chance to share what you know...
 - c) But I do know, you cannot share scripture you don't know.

III. Point

A. Word of God Speak!

1. The spoken WORD of God is how we first see God interacting with creation:
 - a) [Gen 1:3 ESV] 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
 - b) The Word of God creates, and instructs, and there is no higher authority!
2. The spoken word of God is practical for equipping the saints
 - a) [2Ti 3:16-17 ESV] 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
 - b) We can have what we need from the word that is complete
 - c) God's word speaks a better truth than we could ever come up with on our own.
3. God will speak directly to your situation, and the truth will set you free.
4. A Contrast:
 - a) [Rev 19:11-16 ESV] 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.
 - b) This sword is a large sword, but this one is also referencing the Word!

B. Word of God Separate!

1. [Heb 4:12-13 ESV] 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
2. Have you invited God to work in you this way?
3. So many times we only think about the outward work towards others:
 - a) We think of the word correcting those who are wrong
 - b) Bringing sinners to repentance
 - c) Scolding our enemies...condemning them...
4. What we miss sometimes is the work the Word is intended to do in us!
 - a) Separate joint from marrow
 - b) Soul from spirit
 - c) Thoughts from intentions
 - d) THIS IS PERSONAL AND INTENDED TO BE FOR THE BELIEVER!
5. Invite God to do this work in you.

C. Word of God Save!

1. [Rom 10:14-15 ESV] 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"
2. The message that we received is the same message we live and work in today.
3. Salvation comes from God, He communicates it through His WORD
4. [Jhn 1:1-14 ESV] 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
5. The Sword of the Spirit, Is the WORD of God!
 - a) The Word is our DEFENSE
 - b) The Word is our HELP
 - c) The Word is our RESPONSE
 - d) The Word is our REMINDER
 - e) The Word is our SAVIOR
 - f) The Word is our SUSTAINER
 - g) The Word is ENOUGH
 - h) The Word is EVERYTHING!

IV. Close