

Agape House of Worship
Wednesday Bible Study

Study Series: Standing Strong in Spiritual Warfare

March 12th 2025

Part 6: Sword of the Spirit

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Ephesian 6:17, “Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

We clothe ourselves with the whole armour of God by knowing, believing and practicing the word of God - Isaiah 59:17; 1 Thess 5:8; Rev.19:15. It must be noted that the written word of God - either hard or soft copy - is not the sword of the Spirit to start with. While the **logos** (the written word) is fundamental in our relationship with God, only revealed scriptures or parts of the Bible highlighted to us at a particular time for a specific purpose (**rhema**) becomes the sword of the Spirit with which we fight spiritual battles - John 14:26. This is always the word the believer has obeyed and lived by - James 1:21-24. If we live in disobedience, situations, circumstances and unclean spirits will disobey us no matter how many times we repeat biblical verses. e.g. Acts 19:13-16; 2 Corinth 10:6. Satan has already been defeated. Our task is to administer the defeat in such a way that our souls and the souls of others will be saved - Col. 2:13–15; Rev.3:21.

Levels of Spiritual Warfare

1. War in the Heavens - Daniel 10:12-13; Rev.12:7-9. This directly involves the angels of God and that of Satan in response to the prayers of the brethren. The war is usually for the control of nations or territories. Even at this level, God's word spoken by faith is a sword of the Spirit - Daniel 10:12, *“Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.”* AMP. Twenty-one days of angelic warfare was set off and sustained by a believer's words (chapter 9)!
2. War on Earth - 2 Corinth 10:6; Rom.8:7-8; 12:2.
On earth, spiritual warfare is waged against believers by human agents of the kingdom of darkness, *“...against the powers of this dark world...”* (Ephesians 6:12). This includes witches, wizards, cultists, necromancers, false religions, false prophets, horoscopes, palm readers, etc. Whenever the attack occurs, your words will make you victorious or make you a victim - Matthew 12:37.

Question: What is your star?

The Roman Soldier's Sword

The sword was a short, double-edged weapon used for close combat. This symbolizes how personal and real spiritual warfare can be. Jesus is our best example in fighting with the sword of the Spirit - Matthew 4:1-12. In the spirit, the spoken word becomes a dangerous weapon like a sword.

On another level, the sword is used to fight against our number one physical enemy according to Romans 8:7-8: *“The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.”* NIV

Hebrews 4:12: “For the word of God is alive and 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. - the word doesn't stop at cleansing us (Ephesians 5:25-27), it cuts deep down into our hearts and souls to reveal our true spiritual condition. How well we apply the word at this level determines whether we win or lose in spiritual warfare because that's where the battles take place. (This is beyond the belt of truth) 2 Corinth 10:4-5.

The Launching Pad

In spiritual warfare, the mouth is the launching pad not only for the sword of the Spirit but also for all the other pieces of the armor of God: Psalm 8:2; Matthew 21:16. The Holy Spirit provides the power backup - Acts 1:8. Check out the importance of the mouth in spiritual warfare - Prov. 18:21, “*The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*” NIV.

Five Major Ways to Wield the Sword of the Spirit

1. Prayer - Acts 4: 24-26; Hosea 14:2; Matthew 18:18.
2. Praise - Psalm 149:6-9
3. Preaching - Acts 19:18-20
4. Testimony - Acts 4:33, Rev. 12:11
5. Declaration - Job 22:28; Mark 11:23

Conclusion

The word becomes a sword when it passes through the process of reading, study, and meditation. It has passed from the head to the heart. At His coming, Jesus will destroy His enemies with the sword from His mouth - Rev.19:15, “*From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress.*” NLT.