

## The Armour of God part 7 The Sword of The Spirit

Ephesians 6 : 17-19. 17. And take the helmet of salvation, and (take) the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18. *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints* 19. and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

The only piece of the armour that is an actual weapon. Can be used both for defence and attack.

### It is HIS SWORD.

The Holy Spirit's Sword. We can not take on our spiritual enemies using anything other than what God provides for us.

2 Corinthians 10 : 4 For the weapons of our warfare are **not carnal but mighty in God** for pulling down strongholds,

No earthly or human effort can be used to defend ourselves or overcome and destroy our spiritual enemies attacks. Only what God Himself has designed for humanity to access and apply can have any effect against Satan and his army.

### 1/. The sword is to be wielded.

Question: What do picture or envisage what it means to wield the sword?

Revelation 1 : 16 He held seven stars in his right hand, and a **sharp** two-edged **sword** came from his mouth. And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance.

The sword of the Spirit is not something that we can liken to an earthly sword, with a handle, blade and is held in a scabbard. The sword is nothing less than Gods word and is wielded using the mouth. The spoken, proclaimed, declared word of God is the sword with which we fight.

### How is it to be wielded?

17. And take the helmet of salvation, and (take) the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18. *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,*

Notice the semi colon after the word "God". There are no semi colons in the original text, so this can be read with a continuation of thought. "Which is **the word of God praying** always with all prayer" When we pray the word of God out of our mouths it is like a sword cutting through the works of the enemy.;

"praying always with **ALL** prayer"

All prayers and supplication. (Petition)

ALL prayers. Greek meaning : every, the whole, all manner of means. Thoroughly, whatsoever.

If you picture a soldier defending against a number of attackers at any one time, he will need to use various techniques and moves to make his stand. We are to wage our war, defend and attack through various types of prayers and requests made to God. There is no "oner prayer suits all".

There will be times when we will request, command, petition, submit, renounce, proclaim, praise etc all during one encounter. Whatever we need to do to ward off and push back the enemy must be employed freely and easily. We will look at this a little more later.

### 2/. For fighting externally with our spiritual enemies.

Revelation 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.



We don't fight against flesh and blood. We have a spiritual enemy. We are to use the sword to fight, defending and attacking. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. Jesus healed them with a word.

Too many of us have our swords sheathed and fail to bring them out when we are under attack. We can be too accepting of circumstances, complacent or lethargic. Indifferent to our own needs and the needs of others. The sword can only do damage if it is drawn and wielded. When the redeemed of the lord "say so". When we speak to the mountains.

### 3/. For fighting internally for our selves.

Our souls ( the fleshly, carnal part ) are at war with our spirits. The spirit is willing, but the flesh ( body and soul ) is weak.

Hebrews 4:12 NLT. For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest TWO-EDGED SWORD, CUTTING BETWEEN SOUL AND SPIRIT, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

We are told in a number of places in the new testament to "put to death your members" in Colossians 3:5. And Romans 8:13. "Make no room for the flesh" in Romans 13:14. "Reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive to God" in Romans 6:11. These are Gods instructions to use the sword of the Spirit upon our carnal nature and cut it away, allowing our spirit to gain control over our lives.

Question : what experience have you had of wanting to do what its right but doing what you know to be wrong?

Romans 7 : 15-23. 15. I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I can't. I do what I don't want to--what I hate. 16. I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience proves that I agree with these laws I am breaking. 17. But I can't help myself, because I'm no longer doing it. It is sin inside me that is stronger than I am that makes me do these evil things.18. I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn I can't make myself do right. I want to but I can't. 19. When I want to do good, I don't; and when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway. 20. Now if I am doing what I don't want to, it is plain where the trouble is: sin still has me in its evil grasp. 21. It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. 22. I love to do God's will so far as my new nature is concerned; 23. but there is something else deep within me, in my lower nature, that is at war with my mind and wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. In my mind I want to be God's willing servant but instead I find myself still enslaved to sin. So you see how it is: my new life tells me to do right, but the old nature that is still inside me loves to sin. Oh, what a terrible predicament I'm in! Who will free me from my slavery to this deadly lower nature? Thank God! It has been done by Jesus Christ our Lord. He has set me free.

This passage is a perfect picture of how many of us fell or have felt in our walk with God. As we apply Gods word to our lives we will begin to experience for ourselves that the truth does indeed set us free.

### 4/. For fighting for our brothers and sisters freedom.

18. *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints*

**Being watchful** : From a root word meaning to be sleepless.

There is no time to back off, become complacent or step into dismissive mode.

The enemy does not wait for us to give him our attention or acknowledge his presence.

**To this end** : Made up of three words.

First is "autos" (owntos) to breath unconsciously that is to respire, and **backward**.

Secondly is eis (ice) meaning "to or into a point reached or entered. Against or among and only in places using motion. as at **backward**.



Thirdly is Touto (tooto) meaning for this cause, therefor.

My summery. In the context of what is written saying “for all the saints”, I believe it is saying this, My words for verse. The Phil Boalch having a go translation. 18. *now knowing ourselves what we know about spiritual warfare, its reality, its importance, its dangers. whilst making our forward leaning stance against the enemy, we are also, with as much naturally unconscious effort as with breathing, to be constantly glancing over our shoulders looking out for our brothers and sisters who are behind us, along side us, coming with us, and with all perseverance and supplication, fight in prayer for them also.*

#### **5/. For fighting for the effective and powerful preaching of the gospel**

19. *and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,*

Interesting word utterance. Logos. Something said, including the thought. A topic, reasoning, a divine expression.

Paul was asking that he could have prayer to receive something specifically, inspired by God, with which he could be passionately be enthused to preach with.

Our prayers, using Gods powerful word as a sword, can help release hindered inspiration and revelation. The logos.

#### **The Sword of the Spirit / The Word of God.**

Take the Sword : Take the Word.

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**Take.** Take up, receive, to accept as if offered.

Faith, Hope and Gods word are to be received from the lord and applied to whatever trial or temptation you're in.

Seeking God for divine inspiration and revelation of His word so that our prayers, our commands in the spirit are done with conviction and power, knowing what the will of the lord is and enforcing it, so its truth and its reality are manifested, brought into existence in this world.

Paul prayed for the Church at Ephesus that they might receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God. He understood that prayer is needed, not to twist Gods arm to give out to His people, but to tell principalities and powers to get out of the way.

#### **Paul himself asked for prayer on these lines.**

19. *and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,*

He asks for prayer that he may receive divine inspiration with which to fight boldly against the works of the devil in spiritual blindness, doubt and unbelief as he wields the word of God in the face of the enemy through bold proclamation of the gospel.

#### **The Word of God.**

Not the logos, but the RHEMA Word.



Ephesians 6 : 17-19. 17. And take the helmet of salvation, and (take) the sword of the Spirit, **which is the word ( Rhema) of God;** 18. *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,* being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints  
19. and for me, that **utterance ( logos )** may be given to me, that **I may open my mouth boldly to make known ( Rhema )** the mystery of the gospel,

#### **Utterance : Greek is LOGOS:**

In verse 19 Paul is asking for “utterance” to be given to him. He is asking for Logos. The divinely inspired word. Logos meaning something said, including the thought, topic, subject of discourse. Logos has a theme to it. Paul is asking for more than just a word but a message, theme, topic, that is directly inspired by God.

#### **Word : Greek is RHEMA.**

In verse 17 Paul is saying the the sword of the Spirit is the word, the Rhema of God. Rhemas also means utterance. But Paul cases this word in the context of what is being used, wielded, prayed out of the mouth. Something spoken.

I believe that Paul is saying that the logos, in order to become effective in our lives and the lives of others, has to be received, accepted and wielded, like a sword. Spoken out of our mouths and acted upon in order for it to become a living Rhema word of God touching those who hear it.

19. and for me, that **utterance ( logos )** may be given to me, that **I may open my mouth boldly to make known ( Rhema )** the mystery of the gospel,

We see this in James 1:21-22. Where the word can be given to us, but if not acted upon is of no value. When we act upon the LOGOS it becomes living and active in us and through us. ( This requires further study for more clarity and accuracy on my part. I suggest you do your own study on this also )

James 1:21-22. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word ( **logos** ), which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word ( **logos** ) and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

#### **Examples of some prayers.**

“Ask and you shall receive”, “Make your requests know to God”, petitions, when needing kingdom provision.

“Speak to the mountain” commands, when enforcing the known will of God.

“Let the redeemed of the lord say so” declarations, when making a stand on the finished work of Jesus Christ.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever” proclamations and praise of His greatness, power and majesty.

