

Armor Up: The Sword of the Spirit

(Ephesians 6:17b & Various Texts)

The Sword

- The short-handled sword of the Roman infantry
 - Normally about 2' long in total
- Used for both offense & defense

The Sword of the Spirit

- The sword is not the Spirit Himself, but rather, the Word of God
 - The Word of God = God's truth & promises as found in the Scriptures (Pro. 30:5)
- It is the Sword of the *Spirit* becomes living & active through the power of the Holy Spirit (Heb. 4:12)

The Word as a Sword

- This is not a reference to the Bible as a book
 - A printed book has no intrinsic power
- Instead, Paul uses the term *rhema*, which means a spoken word
 - Thus, God's word acts as armor when it is declared
 - When we are in battle and claim His promises for us and for others
- This can only happen when we have know God's word intimately (Ps. 119:11)
 - We need to be able to pull out that sword at a moment's notice
- The Sword is the only offense aspect to the armor of God
 - It is not that the devil cannot stand hearing God's word
 - But rather, as we faithfully proclaim the Gospel, people in Satan's sway might hear the liberating and life-giving message and be freed from his grasp

The Word as Armor

- The Sword has defensive properties as well
 - Jesus uses Scripture to rebuff the devil when he was being tempted (Matt. 4:3-10)

Weapons Used Wisely

- Like a real sword, God's word can be used with malicious intent
 - Notice that Satan used Scripture against Jesus too (Matt. 4:6)
- We must be mindful of how we use Scripture
 - We must understand & use it with its correct context & meaning
 - Scripture should never be used to wound or threaten other people!
 - Our enemy is the devil, not each other

So What?

- God's Word, made alive by the Holy Spirit, is our weapon against the devil
 - Are we equipping ourselves with it?
 - Are we defending ourselves and others with it?

Meditation Verse: *Hebrews 4:12-13*