



An Overview Of The Armor Of God Part 5: The Sword of the Spirit by Beth Jones

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 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.

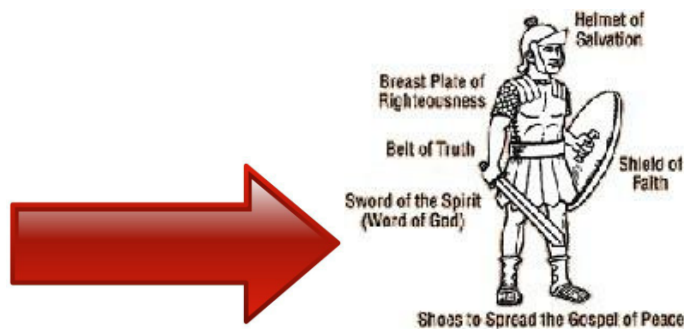
“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6: 11-18, NKJV)

In our last article, we discussed how God instructed us to put on the whole armor of God, and how we can be equipped and ready for battle with the shoes of peace (the good news).

<http://www.bethjones.net/the-shoes-of-peace/>

Today we’ll be talking about one of the most powerful pieces of the armor, the sword of the Spirit – the Word of God! I especially love this one. God’s word is powerful and mighty to pull down every stronghold. (2 Corinthians 10: 4-5) God’s word is eternal. (Psalm 119:89)

Satan and his demons can’t resist the power of the Bible. The word of God is undefeatable!



(Image resource: <http://www.tgm.org/aogWholeArmor.htm>)

Paul says that our weapon is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. In the first century, for hand to hand combat, a sword was considered by the Romans as the most important weapon for victory in warfare. In Ephesians 6, the sword which Paul refers to is the *machaira*. This sword was relatively short compared to the longer, heavier swords used by soldiers in other nations. The *machaira* varied in length from six to eighteen inches and was the common sword carried by Roman foot soldiers.¹

The advantage of this short sword was its ability to thrust: it was able to be pulled out quickly and thrust into an enemy, and then quickly pulled out to attack another. It was much more versatile than the two-handed broad sword.² It didn't have the reach of other larger swords, but it quickly eliminated the enemy!

Hebrews 4:12 tells us how powerful and dangerous our sword is when used as God intended. It is the weapon that Jesus used in his battle against Satan when He was tempted in the wilderness (Matthew 4). With each attack of Satan's, Jesus said, "It is written!" to fight and to overcome Satan. It should be our weapon each day as well.

A weapon is useless if you don't know how to use it or you don't ever pick it up! Is your Bible collecting dust? The more familiar we are with our weapon, the better we are able to use it correctly. How does a swordsman become a master at using his weapon?³

¹ The Armor of God: The Sword of the Spirit, <http://www.libertyonlineministries.com/media/9953/resource/biblestudy/The%20Armor%20of%20God%2007%20The%20Sword%20of%20the%20Spirit.pdf>

² Ibid, <http://www.libertyonlineministries.com/media/9953/resource/biblestudy/The%20Armor%20of%20God%2007%20The%20Sword%20of%20the%20Spirit.pdf>

³ Ibid, <http://www.libertyonlineministries.com/media/9953/resource/biblestudy/The%20Armor%20of%20God%2007%20The%20Sword%20of%20the%20Spirit.pdf>

The first thing to do is to find a good trainer – someone who knows how to handle the sword. The Roman soldier trained for hours every day with their swords so that they would be fit and ready for battle. They became skilled in the use of their swords. It was vital that the Roman soldiers achieved a high level of skill using their weapons to assure the supremacy of Rome.⁴ Every soldier needed to be physically, mentally, and emotionally fit in order to shape the Roman army into an efficient killing machine.⁵ The discipline of the Roman army is legendary.

How fit are you for the battles in your life? In order to use the Word of God, you have to know it first. How much time are you in the Word each day? Do you read it, study it, meditate on it?

We never know when we will need to use God’s word against the enemy. We have to be instant in season, always ready for battle and to share God’s good news with others. (2 Timothy 4:2, NLT)

“Plant your seed in the morning and keep busy all afternoon, for you don't know if profit will come from one activity or another--or maybe both.” (Ecclesiastes 11:6, NLT)



Do you know Him?

Maybe you have never had a relationship with Jesus. You don’t know anything about the Bible. If that is you, I invite you to stop right now and ask Jesus to become your Lord and Savior. Everyone who calls on Jesus’ name will be saved. God will forgive you of any sin you have committed and will give you new life in Him. Jesus will fill you with His Spirit. You will spend eternity with God! It is the most important decision you will *ever* make in your life, dear friend.

If you do this, please email me to let me know at elizabethdjones@gmail.com so I can celebrate with you! Also, find a good, Bible-teaching church to learn more about God’s word – His love letter to you! – and to be strengthened, encouraged, and prayed for by other believers in Christ.

⁴ The Roman Army, <http://www.roman-empire.net/army/army.html>

⁵ Ibid, <http://www.roman-empire.net/army/army.html>

Maybe you have been saved, but you don't read the Bible that often, and you don't feel "equipped" against Satan. You don't feel like you're "trained" in the Word of God. You have a lack of confidence, thinking that preachers, teachers, and others know the Bible so much better than you do. Been there, done that! Sometimes I still feel quite ignorant about the Bible (any time I listen to Billy Graham, Joyce Meyer or Beth Moore!) – so I keep reading it to learn more – and mostly I read it to know **God** more, to have that close friendship with Him!

As you read the Bible each day, God will continue to give you revelation of His thoughts and His ways by His Spirit. He will open your eyes to understanding and give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation. (Psalm 119:18; Ephesians 1:17-18) God will help you to "get" His word – and to apply it to your life. Just ask for Him to help you become more like Him, and to hunger for His Word and His presence. He will answer that prayer, dear friend. ☺ As you learn and grow in Christ, He'll help you to use it to help and encourage others, too.

John 14:26 tells us that God gave us the best trainer, the Holy Spirit our Helper. His anointing teaches us all things and will help us to remember what we've been taught. ⁶ (1 John 2:27) God will equip, teach, and train us with His word. But we have to be willing to be trained first!

God doesn't want overweight, sloppy, lazy, undisciplined soldiers – soldiers who refuse to obey orders or to discipline themselves. The apostle Paul said, "I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified." (1 Corinthians 9:27, NLT) One version says we keep our bodies under control.

Yes, God wants us fit and ready for battle; He knows how serious this warfare really is and how Satan wants to totally wipe us out – to even kill us! We need to be combat-ready each day, our sword unsheathed, practicing with it because we have an enemy who is blood-thirsty and relentless. His job is to steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10:10) The Word of God is what defeats Satan.



Are you fit for God?

⁶ The Armor of God: The Sword of the Spirit,
<http://www.libertyonlineministries.com/media/9953/resource/biblestudy/The%20Armor%20of%20God%2007%20The%20Sword%20of%20the%20Spirit.pdf>

Remember that Jesus said to Satan with authority, “It is written!” to overcome Him. Jesus didn’t have to shout at Satan, rebuke him, or do anything weird to make him go away. He simply used the power of the sword of the Spirit. And he SPOKE the word. It’s important that we know the Word of God and we use it – speaking it aloud to the enemy and to our circumstances.

"I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could *say* to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."
(Matthew 17:20, NLT)

What are you saying to your mountain – to relationship difficulties, financial struggles, parenting problems, health issues, fears, worries, unbelief, depression, discouragement, anger, unforgiveness? Tell that mountain to move in Jesus’ name and to stop trespassing on holy land! You belong to God. You are His child. His Spirit lives inside you. You have that authority in Christ with His word!

We don’t have to raise our voices for the enemy to flee, but there is power when God’s word is released by our mouths. When God created the heavens and the earth, God said, “Let there be light!” and there was light. (Genesis 1) He SPOKE it into existence with His word.



Begin to believe in faith, speak, and prophesy God’s word over your life and others. Watch what God will do, for He honors His own word when we are obeying Him and have faith in Him! He will see that it accomplishes what He desires and achieves the purpose for which He sent it.
(Isaiah 55:10-11)

When Satan is attacking you and your loved ones, begin to use the weapon of the Sword of the Spirit. The Bible says in Hebrews 4:12:

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

The Roman *machaira* sword was extremely sharp. It was double-edged, it had a sharp point, and it was able to pierce through easily. It will penetrate the enemy and all darkness!

Remember, the Sword of the Spirit is to be used against the enemy as a weapon to destroy him, not to destroy other people! We need to be careful how we use God's word. Worse than not using it at all is using it wrongly. We don't want to go around piercing and slashing other people with the Word of God. I have experienced that from other Christians, and it is painful!

You may have heard the expression that Christians are the only ones who shoot their own wounded (or stab them!). This isn't what God wants us to do with His precious Word. His word saves, delivers, and frees us! That is His heart for us.

There are times we DO need to use the word of God for correcting someone, but not to tear them to pieces with it. It should always be done with a heart of love.

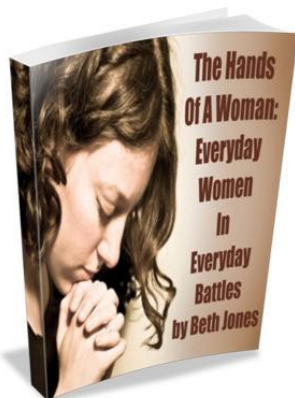
“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

But we DO need to use the sword of the Spirit *relentlessly* against the enemy Satan and have no mercy on him. It is the only authority we have against him.

God has put His sword into your hands. He has equipped you as His soldier in His army. God has chosen you and raised you up for such a time as this. (Esther 4:13)

God has called you as a warrior. As a Christian, you *are* in a war. **You must fight, or become MIA (missing in action) or a casualty of war.**

God wants you to use your sword, like Deborah who led the army of Israel against Sisera. (Judges 4) Don't back down against Satan. He will try to frighten and intimidate you. He will try to attack you and all you love. But he is a defeated foe. **Pick up your sword and fight! The victory in Christ is sure!**



Did you enjoy this article? Do you want to learn more about spiritual warfare? My new ebook, **The Hands Of A Woman: Everyday Women In Everyday Battles**, has eight women's true, inspirational stories of their greatest spiritual battles and shares how they

obtained victory through faith in Christ. Right now you can purchase this ebook at **a special 25% discount and complimentary gifts.** Just go here. <http://womensbattles.com>



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