

“THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT”

Ephesians 6:17B

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INTRODUCTION

A soldier without his sword?

How about a pilot without his chart or flight manual; a scholar without his book; a baseball player without his bat; a policeman without a gun?

Our sword is the Bible.

I. IDENTIFYING THE SWORD

“of the Spirit”—the Spirit is the origin.

He is also our Teacher (I Jn. 2:20; Jn. 14:26)

The sword is of divine origin—therefore **powerful**:

- To Save (Rom. 1:16)
- To Judge (Heb. 4:12-13)

A. Defensive—against Satan

Cf. Jesus’ use (Mt. 4:1-11) (*The emphasis here*)

Learn to apply specific principles— $\rho\eta\mu\alpha$ here is a specific statement.

- See II Tim. 2:15
- Rev. 12:11

B. Offensive—on the attack

Reaching souls

Challenging believers

Preaching and teaching to attack

Compare the Parable of the Sower—Satan hinders the word.

Be ready—I Pet. 3:15.

II. ANALYZING THE SWORD

A. Authorship of the Bible--God

“The Bible is an armory of heavenly weapons . . .”

Quote MacArthur—pp. 170-71

B. Inspiration of the Bible

1. Inerrant—in whole and in its parts (*plenary, verbal*)

Ps. 19:7: “The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul.”

Pr. 30:5-6: “Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to his words or he will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.”

2. Complete—Rev. 22:18-19

3. Authoritative—Isaiah 1:2: “Listen O heavens, and hear, O earth; **for the Lord speaks.**”
4. Sufficient—II Tim. 3:15, 17: “And that from a child you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus . . . That the man of God may be perfect (complete, adequate), thoroughly furnished (fully equipped) unto all good works.”
5. Effective (Is. 55:11—“So will my word be which goes forth from my mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”
6. Divine—II Pet. 1:20-21: “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy spirit spoke from God.”

One’s response to the Word reveals his relationship with God—John 8:47: “He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.”

C. Resources of the Bible

1. Source of Truth—Jn. 17:17: “Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.” **It speaks about:**
 - Life and death
 - Heaven and hell
 - Right and wrong
 - Men and women
 - Old and young
 - Society
 - Relationships etc.
2. Source of Happiness—Pr. 8:34: (Wisdom says) “Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates”; Luke 11:28: “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”
3. Source of Growth—II Pet. 3:18: “But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”; I Pet. 2:2: “Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to godliness.”
4. Source of Power—Heb. 4:12: “For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.”
5. Source of Guidance—Ps. 119:105: “Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”
6. Source of Comfort—Rom. 15:4: “For whatever was written in earlier times was

written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

7. Source of Perfection—II Tim. 3:17: “That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto every good work.”

8. Source of Victory—Eph. 6:17

CONCLUSION

“A butterfly, botanist, or bee?”

Illustration—pp. 184-185

Use the Sword of the Spirit against

- Persecutors
- Heretics
- Lusts within us
- Afflictions