

Ephesians 6:13

**Therefore, take up the FULL armor of God,
so that you will be able to resist in the evil day,
and having done everything, to stand firm.**

How ridiculous it would be to see a soldier with only a sword!

*Christians who fight only with a sword will be defeated in battle.
They do not know the truth that will set them free. They do not know they are righteous.
They do not understand the good news of good things.
They do not know what their salvation includes. They do not have faith in Jesus.
They simply spout off scripture as a weapon,
and don't even know what the words they are using mean or the power of them.
They may have memorized the entire Bible, but without putting on
"the full armor of God", they cannot stand.*

Ephesians 6:17-18

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

I "Take" here means to RECEIVE or ACCEPT something that is being given to you.

A God is the One who supplies us with the sword of the Spirit. It is not a weapon produced by our fleshly efforts but by the Spirit of God.

B It is not in our own might that we fight this warfare, but in His. In fact, as we have learned, God is to be praised for all the weapons of our warfare. They are all from Him and through Him.

2 Corinthians 10:4

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (flesh) but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

¹ It is impossible in this one study to cover all the aspects of the word of God. We have highlighted a few.
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- 1 By God's Spirit we pull down strongholds, cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.
- 2 By His Spirit, not our flesh, we bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

The Sword of the Spirit IS the Word of God.

II Jesus is called The Word of God.

John 1:1-4, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Revelation 19:13

He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

A There is the Word of God (Jesus) and the word of God (scripture).

- 1 Christians are persecuted for both.

Revelation 20:4

Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God.

- 2 The Word of God preached the word of God.

Mark 2:2

Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.

III The word of God is like a seed by which we are born again, cleansed, and become partakers of the divine nature. We live by the word of God.

1 Peter 1:23

Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.

John 15:3

"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."

2 Peter 1:2-4

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Matthew 4:4

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'

IV The Word of God is alive and powerful!

Hebrews 4:12-13

The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

John 6:63

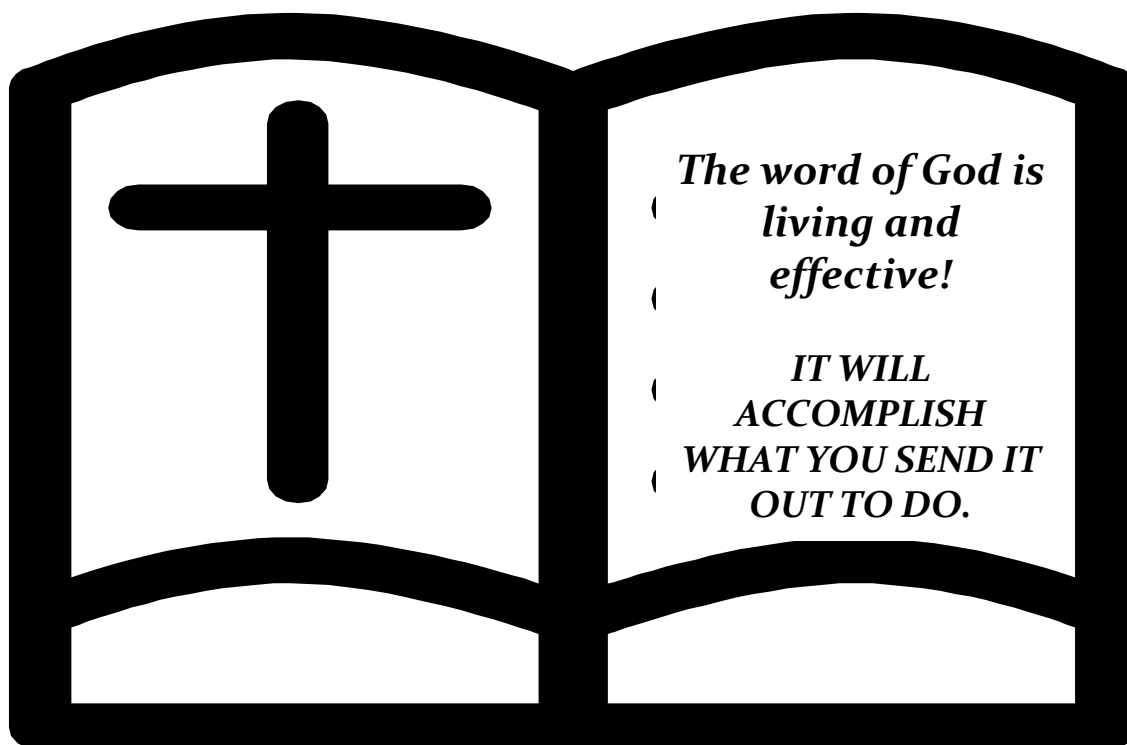
"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

A The sword of the Spirit which is the word of God WHICH YOU HOLD IN YOUR HAND is living!

B The word translated powerful here is not *dunamis* but rather *energēs* which means **EFFECTIVE**.

Isaiah 55:11

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.



V The sword of the Spirit is two-edged.

Revelation 1:16

“and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword.” (*distomos*)

Definition: *dis*: twice:--NAS Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible

Definition: *stoma*: the mouth:--NAS Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.

A Just as Jesus defeated Satan by speaking forth the written word of God so do we speak the word of God when the enemy lies to tempt us.

1 Jesus spoke the written Word (“It is written...”) not the personal word that had been spoken to Him by God (“This is my beloved Son”).²

Isaiah 49:2

*He has made My mouth like a sharp sword,
In the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me;
And He has also made Me a select arrow,
He has hidden Me in His quiver.*

2 When we speak forth the word of God it goes out and accomplishes its mission (because it is alive).

1 Thessalonians 1:8

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place.

Romans 10:14

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?¹⁵ How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!

Acts 12:24

But the word of God grew and multiplied.

Acts 19:20

So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

² There is an erroneous teaching that the word of God is not powerful until it changes from the written form to a word God speaks in our heart or to us by a “prophet”. It is claimed that LOGOS is the written word, and RHEMA is the revealed word. THIS IS NOT TRUE. Our studies on this topic have caused us to conclude that rhema and logos are used interchangeably. **We DO NOT believe that a rhema is revelation of logos.** This conclusion cannot be made from a careful comparison of the two. The biggest danger of the rhema-logos teaching is that certain people seem to “get rhema” more than others and they are therefore more in-tune with God spiritually and we should follow them. THIS IS DANGEROUS. All believers know God intimately and can hear from God and know His voice. Quite often we understand scripture that we didn’t understand before, but this is the normal process of revelation, not the written word becoming alive (logos becoming rhema). This teaching has brought much damage to believers who just can’t seem to get the “rhema” word of God and therefore live defeated lives or in dependence on someone else who supposedly can get “rhema” for them. **The written word is alive.** The Greek word for “word” in Hebrews 4:12 where it says “the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword” is LOGOS. Jesus is also called LOGOS. These two examples alone should quell such nonsense, but alas, it is still taught as if it is true. If you are interested, William Dicks has compiled a lengthy study of the two words. You might want to bookmark this site for future reference. <http://williamdicks.blogspot.com/>

- 3** Even though Peter had personally heard God's voice from heaven, he refers to the written word as a "more sure word of prophecy".

1 Peter 1:17-20

For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

VI The Word of God keeps us in God's rest.

Hebrews 4:10-12

*For the one who has entered His rest has himself also **rested from his works**, as God did from His. ¹¹Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience. ¹²For 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. ¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁶Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

- A** We are to enter His Sabbath rest where we cease from all our efforts and works to be acceptable to God or to work for God. His word will divide out the self-induced and self-righteous attitudes and intentions in our heart and mind. When we see a lack of rest in ourselves (i.e. striving to be righteous or for revival, feeling miserable as a believer, or thinking that we can never be good enough). We can come boldly before His throne of grace to obtain what we need to remain in rest. Then we are to hold fast to the verbal confession of His completed work which is our rest.

VII The Word of God is equated with the gospel or the preaching of the gospel quite frequently. We therefore conclude that our sword is not only for self-defense but for the purpose of advancing the gospel.

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

1 Peter 1:25

But the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Ephesians 1:13

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

Acts 15:7

And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: “Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.

Acts 10:36

The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all.

Acts 13:5

And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant.

Acts 13:46

Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.

Acts 13:49

And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.

1 Peter 1:25

“But the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

VIII We can nullify the word of God by our man-made traditions.**Mark 7:13**

“You make the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down.”

IX The word of God is not to be peddled (huckstered³) or be handled deceitfully.**2 Corinthians 2:17**

For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:2

But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.

³ *Huckster: to promote or attempt to sell in an over-aggressive, showy, and sometimes devious method (<http://www.answers.com/topic/huckster>).*

I One of the weapons of our warfare is prayer.⁴

- A Paul asked the Ephesian believers to always be praying for all the saints and for him, so that he would be able to speak the word boldly and make known the mystery of the gospel.

Ephesians 6:18-20

Pray 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, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

- B We are to pray at **all times** in the Spirit.

1 In our warfare, while we wait for the manifestation of our prayers, or while we wait for the fruit of Jesus' victory to be manifest in our lives, we can use all prayer, particularly praying in the spirit (in tongues) and thanksgiving and worship.

1 Corinthians 14:2, 4-5, 14-15, 16-17

For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. ⁴One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself. ⁵Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues ¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also. ¹⁶Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified.

II Another weapon of warfare is praise.

Psalms 149: 4-9

*For the LORD takes pleasure in His people;
He will beautify the afflicted ones with salvation.
⁵Let the godly ones exult in glory;
Let them sing for joy on their beds.
⁶Let the high praises of God be in their mouth,
And a two-edged sword in their hand,
⁷To execute vengeance on the nations
And punishment on the peoples,
⁸To bind their kings with chains
And their nobles with fetters of iron,
⁹To execute on them the judgment written;
This is an honor for all His godly ones.
Praise the LORD!*

⁴ You may request the study previous completed on Prayer by sending an email to cdhidebrand@pacbell.net