

# *“Sword of the Spirit”*

**Ephesians 6:17; Matthew 4:1-10**

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- Protection built-in to the world of nature.
- We are being stalked by a spiritual predator!
  - 1 Peter 5:8-- *“Sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*
- Our God-given protection in the spiritual realm.
- Our offensive weapons-- the sword of the Spirit.

## *Sword of the Spirit*

- Ephesians 6:14-17-- *“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench 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.”*

### **A. Identification of the “Sword of the Spirit”**

1. The “gladius” or “machaira” — a small sword used in hand-to-hand combat
2. Our small sword we use in spiritual hand-to-hand combat is the Word of God.
  - Hebrews 4:12-- *“For 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.”*

### **B. Proper Use of the “Sword of the Spirit”**

1. It must be used **SPECIFICALLY!**
  - a. Two Greek words for “word”
    - 1) “Logos” — general statement or message
    - 2) “Rhema” — “to state specifically”
      - Romans 10:17-- *“So then, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word (rhema) of God!”*
      - Romans 1:16 -- *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”*
  - b. The Gospel message is very specific.
    - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 -- *“Christ died for their sins according to the scriptures; that he was buried and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures”!*
    - Romans 10:9-10 -- *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*
    - Romans 10:13 -- *“whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”*
    - Ephesians 2:8-9 -- *“By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*
  - c. We need specific, targeted passages of Scripture to ward off Satan.

2. It must be **SPOKEN!**
  - a. "Rhema" denotes that *"which is uttered either out loud or written down."*
  - b. Satan is not omniscient and he cannot read our minds.
  
3. It must be **SPIRIT-CONTROLLED**
  - a. Relationship of the Spirit of God to the Word of God
    - 1) He is involved in the **INSPIRATION** of Scripture.
      - 2 Peter 1:20-21 -- *"knowing this first that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."*
      - Quote by John Wesley -- *"The Bible must have been written by God or good men or bad men or good angels or bad angels. But bad men and bad angels would not write it because it condemns bad men and bad angels. And good men and good angels would not deceive by lying about its authority and claiming that God wrote it. And so the Bible must have been written as it claims to have been written—by God who by his Holy Spirit inspired men to record His words using the human instrument to communicate His truth."*
    - 2) He is involved in the **ILLUMINATION** of Scripture.
      - a) The Spirit opens our eyes so we can understand the Scriptures.
        - 1 Corinthians 2:10-15-- *"But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches, which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*
      - b) The Spirit of God is our anointing, our resident teacher who helps us understand the Scriptures.
        - 1 John 2:20 -- *"you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things."*
        - 1 John 2:27 -- *"But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teaches you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him."*
        - John 14:26 -- *"the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."*
        - John 16:13 -- *"He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."*
    - c) He is involved in the **RECOLLECTION** of Scripture.
      - Matthew 10:17-20 -- *"Beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."*
- b. The "Balance" between the Spirit's involvement and our responsibility. Acts 7

### C. Testing the “Sword of the Spirit” Matthew 4:1-11

- Hebrews 4:15—“we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”
- Matthew 4:1-11-- “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’ But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”’ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: “He shall give His angels charge over you,” and “In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus said to him, ‘It is written again, “You shall not tempt the LORD your God.”’ Again, the devil took Him up to an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.”’ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.”

1. Jesus Christ was under the **control of the Spirit** -- vv. 1-2

2. **Satan tempted Jesus in three specific areas**

- a. Appeal to the **LUST OF THE FLESH**—“turn stone into bread”
- b. Appeal to the **PRIDE OF LIFE**—“Throw yourself down and God will catch you”
- c. Appeal to the **LUST OF THE EYES**—“Offered the kingdoms of the world in exchange for worship”
  - Revelation 11:15-- “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

3. **Jesus Christ counters the attacks of Satan by quoting scripture.**

- Matthew 4:5 -- “But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”’”
  - Matthew 4:7 -- “Jesus said to him, ‘It is written again, “You shall not tempt the LORD your God.”’”
  - Matthew 4:10 -- “Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only shall you serve.”’”
- a. **He speaks out loud.**
  - b. **He quotes specific passages of Scripture**
    - 1) Deuteronomy 8:3 in response to the “lust of the flesh”
    - 2) Deuteronomy 6:16 in response to the “pride of life”
    - 3) Deuteronomy 10:20 in response to the “lust of the eye”
  - c. In quoting Scripture, both Satan and Jesus omitted parts of the verses that were not applicable. The difference in usage is that Jesus trusted God’s Word, whereas Satan tested or doubted God’s Word.
  - d. **Jesus quotes from a translation**, the Septuagint, rather than from the Hebrew text. Implication is we too can use translations in our spiritual warfare.

### D. Sharpening the “Sword of the Spirit”

1. **Prioritize time for daily, systematic reading of God’s Word.**

2. **Expend effort in Memorizing God’s Word.**

- Psalm 119:11-- “Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!”