

**“Take the sword of the Spirit,  
which is the word of God”  
(Ephesians 6:17).**

As Christians, we are engaged in a spiritual battle.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 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” (Ephesians 6:10-12).

All people are confronted by evil. Only Christ enables us to resist and defeat the forces of evil.

This is not a physical battle. “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 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” (2 Corinthians 10:4, 5).

We are engaged in a battle for the minds and hearts of men. We oppose misinformation about God by using God’s word, logic and arguments. We spread the knowledge of God and persuade people to submit to the authority of Christ.

It is a spiritual battle against evil. It is a battle against a huge army of wicked powers. Only in the Lord can we stand strong by the power of His might!

We must put on spiritual armor to protect ourselves from the attacks of the enemy.

“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” (Ephesians 6:13-17).

By truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation we can stand firm, but that is not enough. A football team that only defends, and never attacks, cannot win the game.

Christians also have a spiritual weapon for attack. “And take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17).

We attack the powers of darkness, not with worldly weapons, but with the word of God! That word proceeds from the mouth of Christ.

“Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His

voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death" (Revelation 1:12-18). "Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword" (verse 16).

With that sword, the word of God, Christ fights against false teachers. He warned the church at Pergamos: "Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth" (Revelation 2:15, 16).

In God's army we all use the same weapon, the word of God. This is expressed symbolically in Revelation.

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:11-16).

For such a vast army, only one weapon is mentioned. “Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword” (Revelation 19:15). Christian soldiers follow Christ and all wield His weapon, “The sword of the

Spirit, which is the word of God”  
(Ephesians 6:17).

We must use the words of the Spirit in our teaching and preaching. These words were revealed to the apostles by the Holy Spirit: “Now we have received, not 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 but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual” (1 Corinthians 2:12, 13).

Thus we may not use non-biblical, theological terminology of human origin, but we must use the words and expressions found in the Bible that are taught by the Spirit. We must bring the doctrine of Christ, not doctrines of human denominations.

We must learn not to go “beyond what is written” (1 Corinthians 4:6).

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let

him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever" (1 Peter 4:11).

What have we learned? "Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17). As Christians we are engaged in a spiritual battle. We must use the words taught by the Spirit in our teaching and preaching. We attack the powers of darkness, not with worldly weapons, but with the sword of the Spirit, the word of God! We must bring the doctrine of Christ, not doctrines of men. We must speak as the oracles of God. Amen.

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