SWORD OF THE SPIRIT – “the word of God”

Spurgeon Says “To be a Christian is to be a warrior” – 60,000+ at his funeral – died over 100 years ago – Billy Graham of the Time

Stand our Ground Against Evil - Since every Christian is on the spiritual battle with the satanic and evil forces of this world, we need to know how to handle the Word properly

QUESTION – Have you ever heard a sermon and immediately knew that was for you? That you knew you had to get better it a certain situation? Heard a sermon and felt something telling you a certain sin in your life has to go? Heard a sermon and it changes your life? ---- Been to CAMP and came back on fire for the Lord?

That is the sword of the spirit penetrating your heart and soul…. The Holy Spirit is effective

The Sword – Both Offensive and Defensive

Swords were used to protect oneself from harm or to attack the enemy to overcome or kill him.

A lot of training to use the sword properly!!

The Roman sword

The sword used by Roman soldiers was known as a gladius; and in the hands of a skilled man, it was a fearsome weapon. In fact, it became known as “the sword that conquered the world.” It was sharpened on both sides, making it lethal against an unarmored foe. The point was also sharpened, enabling it to pierce armor.

An infantryman in the Roman legions would also go into battle with a dagger, a few spears and possibly a few darts. But the gladius was the only offensive weapon listed by Paul, and it was the main weapon in the soldier’s arsenal.

OFFENSE

Hebrews 4:12 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

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.

Notice:

The word of God is Living (like us, plants, etc…)

The word of God is Active

The word of God is Sharp and pierces the heart and penetrates the soul

The word of God Judges our thoughts and intentions

The Roman sword was commonly made in this manner. The fact that it had two edges made it easier to penetrate, as well as to cut in every way. The idea is that of piercing, or penetrating; the Word of God reaches the “heart,” the very center of action, and lays open the motives and feelings of those it touches.

The purpose of the sword of the Spirit—the Bible—is to make us strong and able to withstand the evil onslaughts of Satan.

Psalms 119:11

11 Your word I have treasured in my heart,
That I may not sin against You.

Psalms 119:33-40

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes,
And I shall observe it to the end.
34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law
And keep it with all my heart.
35 Make me walk in the path of Your commandments,
For I delight in it.
36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies
And not to dishonest gain.
37 Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity,
And revive me in Your ways.
38 Establish Your [[m](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalms+119&version=NASB#fen-NASB-15937m)]word to Your servant,
[[n](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalms+119&version=NASB#fen-NASB-15937n)]As that which produces reverence for You.
39 Turn away my reproach which I dread,
For Your ordinances are good.
40 Behold, I long for Your precepts;
Revive me through Your righteousness.

THE WORD USED AS DEFENSE

Who do we attack?

Matthew 4 – Jesus uses it against Satan

“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”’” (verse 4). This is a quote from Deuteronomy 8:3

Jesus also uses some of Psalms 91 and Deuteronomy 6:16 – You shall not tempt the Lord your God --- “You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve”’” (verse 10; quoted from Deuteronomy 6:13).

WE NEED THE SWORD TO FIGHT – we cannot be good enough to go to heaven…. We cannot just get on a chariot and ride there…. As Christians we are equipped with the word of God (the sword) to help us fight until that day we live with Christ…. With the sword we are Assured Victory!!!