

# The Sword of the Spirit

## Part 2

Ephesians 6:17

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**...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

- **Notice that word “take” – it means to receive something from someone else.**
- **Two precious things that God gives us is our salvation and His Word.**

# The Bible:

- Instructs our minds
- Leads us to God
- Serves as a weapon in spiritual warfare

# 1. The Written Word of God

- **66 Books: 39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament**
- **“Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” (Luke 24:44)**
- **Historically reliable: Responsibly and carefully copied through the centuries.**
- **Authoritative for Christians and for the Church**

## 2. The word that is spoken by God's Spirit

- *Rhema* means a word that is spoken by another. The Spirit speaks to our hearts to know and understand His message.
- “And when He comes, He will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:8).
- He guides the believing community into all truth (John 16:14).

## Hebrews 4:12-13

**“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it pierces even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight; everything is uncovered and exposed before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”**

# The Bible Says:

**Isaiah 55:10-11:** “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**John 17:17:** “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

# Philipp Spener



- Born in Alsace in 1635, Educated in Colmar and Strasbourg.
- 1675 *Pia desideria*, for reforming the Lutheran church. His ideas became known as Pietism.
- He emphasized the devotional reading of the Bible, small groups, preaching that developed faith in believers, and personal holiness.
- *Heartfelt Faith and a converted church membership*
- First Great Awakening in America: 1730-50



# **God's Spirit will speak to us if we**

- **Give Him the Opportunity**
- **Read the Word in our personal lives**
- **Study the Word in our Small Groups**
- **Read the Word in our Worship**

### **3. The Word of God that we speak**

- 1 Corinthians 2:7-13: We impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory...these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God... Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.**

# 3. The Word of God that we speak

- **The Gladius: the short-easy-to-carry Roman sword, double-sided, pointed, easy to use, for close combat.**
- **The Word of God:**
  - Is easy to carry
  - Cuts both ways
  - Pointed
  - Easy to use
  - Meant for close combat with the enemy



# Practical suggestions on using the Bible

- Read it daily
- Combine study and meditation
- Start with John's gospel and 1 John
- Proverbs and Psalms
- Memorize short verses of scripture
- Meditate on them – say them back to God in prayer

# Practical suggestions on using the Bible

- **The Word of God tears down strongholds: “For though we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. The weapons of our warfare are not the weapons of the world. Instead, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We tear down arguments, and every presumption set up against the knowledge of God; and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (2 Cor. 10:3-5).**

# What do you think about?

- Doubts?
- Judging others?
- Self-defeating?
- Fearful?
- Angry?
- Everyday we must continue to grow.

**What do you think about?**

**We are never "good enough" for the challenges we have not yet faced, and all of the challenges of the future we have not yet faced.**