

# The Sword of the Spirit

## Part 3

Ephesians 6:17

# **Ephesians 6:13-17**

**Therefore take up the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you will be able to stand your ground, and having done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness arrayed, and with your feet fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

# The Complementary Armor

- They all reflect the character of Christ
- The different pieces of armor must support one another
- They must work together and fit together
- They have different functions but one purpose
- Commitment to the truth, righteousness and the gospel, support and work together with faith, salvation, and the word of God.

# The Christian's Armor

## Hidden: Integrity

- Commitment to Truth
- Commitment to Righteousness
- Commitment to Gospel

## Unhidden: Engaging

- Walking daily by Faith
- Salvation by Grace – Personal Testimony
- Word of God

# The Christian's Armor

## Hidden: Integrity

- Truth
- Righteousness
- The Gospel



## Unhidden: Engaging

- Faith
- Salvation
- Word of God

**1. The Written Word of God**

**2. The Word spoken by the Spirit**

*Rhema*, translated “word,” means a word that is spoken by another. The Spirit speaks to our hearts to know and understand His message.

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

- **Matt. 13:11-15: “And he answered them, ‘To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given ... in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’”**

# The Qualities of a Disciple

- One Teacher
- Lived with the Teacher
- Lifelong attachment to the Teacher
- Took on the character of the Teacher
- Took on the mission of the Teacher
- Willing to suffer for the Teacher

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

- John 15:7-8: If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.**
- Col. 3:16: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.**

## 4. The Word of God that we speak in faith

- **The Gladius:** the short-easy-to-carry Roman sword, double-sided, pointed, easy to use, for close combat.
- **Weaknesses:** no hilt, too short
- **Solutions:** used with the shield and other armor.
- **The Word of God must be embraced in faith by the believer.**



# 4. The Word of God that we speak in faith

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



## **4. The Word of God that we speak in faith**

- It must first be the Word of God that we believe before it can become the weapon to attack.**
- It must first be used in our hearts before it can be used effectively with others.**
- The strength and effectiveness of the church's witness is directly related to the average Christian believing and being able to plainly explain the gospel.**

# Henrietta Mears

- **Poor health and eyesight.**
- **Taught in public schools in Minneapolis and Sunday School to teenagers.**
- **At 37 years old she took a sabbatical to Los Angeles.**
- **Became Christian Education director in First Presbyterian Church Hollywood. The Sunday School grew from 450 to 6,000.**
- **Directly influenced Billy Graham, Bill Bright, and several others.**



# 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.**