

Armour of God 5 message 2020

Today we want to continue in our series on the armour of God. We need the belt of truth as the foundation for our strength and ability to win. We need the breastplate of righteousness to know where we stand and what we need to act like. We need the helmet of salvation to know who we are in Christ and to protect our minds from enemy attack. We need the shield of faith to extinguish all attacks of the enemy and we also need the sword of the Spirit to wield destruction on the devil's work in people's lives and in the world around us. This one we want to share about today.

Let's remind ourselves of some of the bible passages we need to keep in focus.

Ephesians 6:10-20 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

2 Corinthians 10:1-5 New International Version (NIV)

10 By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" toward you when away! ² I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this

world. ³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Physical sword and how it relates spiritually

Swords can be defensive or offensive

A battle between swords has a lot to do with outwitting the enemy in movements and thinking.

You can defend by meeting the enemy's sword with yours in clash. You need to anticipate what the enemy will do to keep him from getting to you.

Practise is essential to being effective in battle.

You need to use the Ready position (sword vertical). Look around for environmental situations that could work against you like cliffs etc.

Gripping your sword with both hands is important to meet the attack. Firm footing is necessary to avoid getting off balanced making yourself vulnerable.

Injuring the fighting arm can be lethal. Control the flow of the fight and don't stab or lift your sword over your head as if you think you have a big blow to give. You are very vulnerable when you do that.

Why the sword of the spirit?

It is to wage warfare against the devil. It is not for peace with the devil. Not to accommodate him or compromise with him. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to do His job in the lives of humanity. You are going to have to fight. The devil will swing his sword at you so if you don't use your Sword, he will inflict harm on you. You can't avoid it and be neutral.

Matthew 16:18

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not **overcome** it.

Luke 10:19

I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to **overcome** all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

Sword of the spirit

John 10:10

The thief comes only to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy**; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

It is the only obvious offensive piece. A sword is to kill and destroy. We are to destroy the works of the devil. He tries to steal kill and destroy people. By love we destroy hate. We are to bless and not to curse people. We accomplish this thru our words. We are to curse the devil's works. We curse his works by blessing people. By doing good we curse the bad.

Romans 12:14

Bless those who persecute you; **bless and** do not **curse**.

1 John 2:14

I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Romans 12:21

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

We will need to use the sword to take land from the enemy. He wants the world. Jesus wants to take all humans back from the enemy's possession and make them His own. Sword work is hard work. We have a job given to us by God to do. We don't get to just somehow watch Jesus do it by Himself. That is not going to happen. Some will be hurt in battle. It is a battle. Jesus has called us to sacrifice. Some die for their faith and Jesus is calling for that kind of commitment. Will we commit to His call?

John 21:15-22 New International Version (NIV)

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

20 Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."

Peter wanted to know how John's end would be and Jesus said "what is that to you." Peter would later die on a cross upside down. When Jesus calls, He is doing it personally to you and I. We don't do things because others are doing it. You just do it because He is calling you and I. This is battle time and it is now. The Word of God is effective in your mouth to do just that (Sword of the Spirit). You will need it to lead others to Christ. We do the testifying and Christ does the saving. Testifying must happen for saving to commence. We must use the Word of God for people to understand Christ. It lights the path. It brings hope, and peace. The Holy Spirit draws men to Him by what we say and do.

To be a swordsman you need to train. We need to train in God's Word of how to lead others to Jesus. To learn what to say and how to know God's heart for others. Silence means the Sword is not being used in battle. It is laying on the ground. What does that mean? It means others are dying and are not defended. It is a battle for their souls. A soldier is not a soldier without the Sword. What kind of army would we be if we are not using and obeying God's Word.

The bible is the Weapon of the Spirit

Everything in the bible is used by the Holy Spirit to get God's work done. Do we believe the whole bible? Or just parts? How sharp is your sword? How much of it do we know and apply? Are there parts we don't do or believe? If this is so, the warrior loses faith it will kill anything in battle because he doesn't know it well.

The bible is sharper than any two edge sword. It will discern the thoughts and intents of the heart. If you can take one part out the whole is at risk. Commitment to the whole bible is necessary.

Hebrews 4:12-13 New International Version (NIV)

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

1 John 4:4

You, dear children, are from God and have **overcome** them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Conclusion

The offensive weapon we have is the sword of the spirit (word of God). It is the tip of the power of God at work in the lives of people. It is to be used not just read or read sporadically. It is to be taken entirely and fully. We need to hone our skills in God's Word. The Word of God is to be used to destroy any words Satan uses against us or the world. It is to be used to strengthen the Body of Christ in unity, faith and love. It is also to be used to bring healing, salvation and rescue to the lost and dying world we live in. This is the whole focus of the Christian and why we are here living in this world. If we are using the Sword of the Spirit in these ways, we are effective overcomers and are standing in the blessing of God. This is God's goal of what He wants us to be doing. If the sword is not being used in these ways, then it has been laid down and we along with the world are extremely vulnerable to the devil's tactics. This is not the way God has envisioned His army. The sword the Holy Spirit uses to win is the same one we need to use to win for Christ. Let's take up the Sword of the Spirit and use it for God's glory more than we have ever done before, not being concerned about what the Devil or anyone else thinks. God gives us armour to win. It is all there for the asking. God won't put it on for us. We need to put it on. It is what God thinks that matters and only that. Today remember you are on the winning side but you need the armour to win in God's army. Amen.