

# ARMOR of GOD - Spiritual Warfare Wear

## Week 6 - SWORD OF THE SPIRIT - NEVER RETREAT

- Week One: Truth – Knowing Right from Wrong
- Week Two: Righteousness – Doing Right from Wrong
- Week Three: Peace – Being at Peace in the Midst of Battle
- Week Four: Faith - a Flame-Resistant Faith
- Week Five: Salvation - Protecting Your Mind
- Week Six: Sword of the Spirit - Never Retreat



### **Ephesians 6:10-18**

*<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

*<sup>18</sup> 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.*

## **WHY "SWORD" of the Spirit**

- Why not "mace of death" or "crossbow of Christ"
- The weapon of choice is the Sword of the Spirit – the Word of God.
- When I get up and read God's Word changes me into a different person – It changes me!

## **1. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?**

### **A. GOD'S WORD**

- Not Bubba & Jethro's! GOD!

### **B. GOD'S GIFT**

- Remember Christmas – getting gifts! How excited you were!

### **C. MATCHLESS**

- Bestselling book of all time!
- Most shoplifted book of all time!
- It covers 1500 years in time and over 40 writers!

### **D. FLAWLESS**

- Not one error!
- You can't be led astray!

### **E. INSTRUCTIONAL**

- Ever try putting together something WITHOUT the instructions?
- **B**asic **I**nstructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth.

## F. **FRESH**

- Ever see a movie before and watch it again and catch something new – something you didn't see the first 12 times you saw it?

## G. **INFINITE** [Next to INFINITE – write TIMELESS]

### **John 1:1**

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

- Even though the Bible, as a book, has a beginning and an end, God's Word is infinite.

## 2. WHY THE BIBLE?

### It Gives Me...

#### A. **STRENGTH** to overcome Hopelessness.

- Some of you in this room have gone through amazing pain, pain that I could never begin to imagine. Deaths, relationships, loss, finances, school.

### **Romans 15:4**

*"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance [Circle "endurance" - that means "Patience."] and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." [Circle "hope."]*

- We want it to happen right now. God says, "You've got to wait for My timing."

#### B. **STANDARDS** to make Right Decisions.

- Where do you get your standards to make your decisions?
- Where do you get your standards to justify the decisions you've made?
- When I look at my friends' lives, in comparison to them, I'm doing pretty good.

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness [Circle "righteousness."], so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

- That's why I don't read the Bible. It's just full of rules! God just wants rules.
- Difference between "Discipline" & "Punishment"
- Talk about guardrails

#### C. **TRUTH** to Reveal the Real Me.

- Everyone wants to find their "real me."
- Youth is all about finding who you really are
- Young Adulthood is about living with that decision.
- Mature Adulthood is about adjusting that decision.

### **Hebrews 4:12**

*"For the word of God is living 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."*

- Sometimes seeing you as you really are hurts. It's not pleasant! It forces change!

## D. **NOURISHMENT** to grow Spiritually Healthy.

### **Matthew 4:4**

*“Jesus answered, ‘It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word [Circle ‘every word.’] that comes from the mouth of God.’”*

- There’re a lot of great things in our world. Success, wealth, relationships, achievements are all great things. But those things will leave you empty inside.
- Some of you are purposely withholding God’s word from your life. You are spiritually anorexic. You are starving yourself.
- Crave God’s word like gasping for air. *Holding your breath in a tunnel.*

## 3. MAKING IT VITAL!

### A. **DESIRE** God's Input.

- I can give you stories. I can get you excited; I can tell you I’m passionate about it. But you must read it!

### B. **DEVELOPE** a Reading Plan.

- Pick an accountability partner.

### C. **DESIGNATE** a Time and Place.

- Are you a “Good morning, God!” person or a “Good God, it’s morning!” person
- The place needs to be conducive to your quiet time.

### D. **DIG** into God's Word.

- Find a translation you like and understand.
- Use study guides.
- [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

### E. **DETERMINE** to Battle Confusion.

- You’re going to miss a day; you’re going to miss a reading. Don’t give up; battle through the confusion
- If you get to a part where you’re confused, there are lots of commentaries online - or Call a Friend!
- Don’t let confusion stop you - ***That is spiritual warfare.***

### **Psalms 119:11**

*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

## **FINALLY**

Notice – it never, anywhere, say to take this off! A Christian never “retires” from the battle. We never take off the armor!