

7. Know Your Offense

Before we study our offensive weapons, let's review a passage we have already studied and take a look at what it is saying, especially in relation to the weapons we wield in spiritual warfare.

Divine Weapons to Fight Spiritual Foes

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- 3 For though we walk in the flesh,
we do not war according to the flesh,
- 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh,
but divinely powerful
for the destruction of fortresses.
- 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing
raised up against the knowledge of God,
and we are taking every thought captive
to the obedience of Christ,

You may have heard from coaches that the best Defense is a good Offense. If you are living the Christian Life ever on your heels, you will eventually stumble. We must live it on the balls of our feet and press toward our adversaries, and put them on their heels. So let us now examine the offensive weapons which God has given to us to do just that!

"The Sword of the Spirit ... the Word of God"

Ephesians 6:17b

- 17 And take ... the Sword of the Spirit,
which is the Word of God.

How is a sword used in battle? _____

How is the Word of God like a Sword? _____

Why is it called the 'Sword of the Spirit'? _____

How does the spoken Word pierce through men's hearts? _____

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

(Interpretation)

v3

The Apostle Paul differentiates between living in the flesh and warring in the spirit. v4-5

Our battles are fought on a spiritual level, which is why our weapons are forged by God Himself to destroy the devil's 'fortresses', made up of all the false doctrines, arguments, thoughts and accusations raised up to denigrate the 'knowledge' of God and the Truth of His Word.

In Spiritual Warfare, we must always remember that our enemies are spiritual and attack us with weapons aimed at our minds designed to undermine our faith in God and His Word. And if they can accomplish that, we are lost, for as Scripture teaches, "The just shall live by Faith." (Romans 1:17)

Ephesians 6:17b (Observations)

Underline what we are to take.

Circle what it is.

There are two Greek words translated 'Word' in the New Testament: "Logos" and "Rhema". 'Logos' is used for both the written and spoken Word, as well as for Christ, the Living Word.

'Rhema', on the other hand, is used primarily for the spoken Word. It is 'Rhema' that is used in Ephesians 6:17.

The Sword of the Spirit is the spoken Word of God. It's efficacy is dependent on how much of the Logos you know! When you speak the Word of God, men and demons alike are pierced by the Spirit of God Who slices open our motives and intentions and thoughts!

Remember, satan, unlike God, cannot read our minds. Therefore, it is the Word spoken aloud that wounds him! Is it any wonder that Christ is pictured with a two edged sword emerging from His mouth in the Book of Revelation?!

Essential Sword Training

2 Timothy 2:15

**Be diligent to present yourself approved to God
as a workman who does not need to be ashamed,
accurately handling the Word of Truth.**

What does it mean to be 'diligent'? _____

Why are we to be 'diligent'? _____

What is significant about how we are to handle the Word of
Truth? _____

I have been fortunate to have attended two Institutions that provided me Biblical and Theological training. If you desire *intensive Bible training* and are able to invest the *time* and *finances* to attend a Bible College or Seminary full-time, then by all means *do so*. But most do not have those options.

Fortunately, we have the **Internet** today, and there is a *plethora* of *videos* and *websites* that provide good teaching through YouTube or ministry websites. I am a Bible 'junkie' and continuously watch or listen to Bible Teachers on the Web to satisfy my insatiable desire to learn. (*If you see me with earphones on, you can bet I am listening to a sermon or lecture by one of my favored teachers via the internet.*) I have listed just a few of these teachers in the column on the right. (***Beware of false teachers for there are many of them as well!***)

If your goal is to earn a *Certificate, Diploma or Degree* for professional reasons but cannot attend a school full-time, check out the *online Bible Training Schools*, such as the **Christian Leaders Institute** at <https://www.christianleadersinstitute.org> that offer low cost alternatives.

Whatever your choice, be '**diligent**' to study God's Word and so fill your **arsenal** with *God's Truth* by which the *Holy Spirit* is able to bring to your mind the *right Scripture* to use as a **Sword** during times of *temptation* or *outright spiritual attack!*

Remember:

**The Greater your Knowledge of God's Word,
the Larger your Sword,
and the Less Chance of Being Deceived
by our Adversary's 'flaming arrows'!**

2 Timothy 2:15 (*Observations*)

Circle what we are to be.

Underline for what *purpose*.

Underline what kind of 'workman' we are to be.

Circle how he *handles* the Word of Truth.

Increase Your Knowledge of Scripture!

Are you 'diligent', or *conscientious* in your study of the Word of Truth? If you have not been trained to study the Bible, download the *third Discipleship Studybook* from **BibleStudyCD.com** and teach yourself a simple method on how to study the Scriptures. join with other Believers and learn together!

Just as a warrior trains to properly handle the sword in combat, even so, handling the Word '*accurately*' is essential, for it is akin to sharpening the blade so that it performs its task effectively. A dull blade is like the Word inaccurately handled. It will be good for naught and may even cause injury to the user.

Internet Teachers:

Ravi Zacharias

Josh McDowell

Ron Rhodes

Jacob Prasch

Ron Dunn

R.C. Sproul

et al.

Apologetics: <https://carm.org/>

Caution: Obtaining more Bible knowledge *does not guarantee* greater *spiritual growth*, just as eating more food does not guarantee becoming physically stronger. You would probably just get fatter, *unless* you couple that food intake with physical exercise and training. In the same way, increasing our knowledge of Scripture must be coupled with the *active application* of that knowledge through **faith** and **obedience**. Only in this will we witness spiritual growth evidenced by **greater faith** and **deeper holiness**.

Attacking with God's Word!

Temptation: To Lament the Lack of Money and Wealth.

SWORD: "It is written ...!"

**"For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil,
and some by longing for it
have wandered away from the faith
and pierced themselves with many griefs."**

(1 Timothy 6:10)

**"And my God will supply all your needs
according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."**

(Philippians 4:19)

Temptation: To be Anxious or Fearful.

SWORD: "It is written ...!"

**"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God."**

**"And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."**

(Philippians 4:6-7)

**"The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?"**

**"The LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?"**

(Psalm 27:1)

Temptation: To Fornicate and Commit Adultery.

SWORD: "It is written... !"

**"Or do you not know
that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit
who is in you,
whom you have from God,
and that you are not your own?"**

**"For you have been bought with a price:
therefore glorify God in your body."**

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

**"Marriage is to be held in honor among all,
and the marriage bed is to be undefiled;
for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."**

(Hebrews 13:4)

Might I challenge you to complete this list with temptations that may be especially relevant to your personal life, and with the appropriate **Scriptures** that thrust to the heart of those temptations? Then, when the enemy attacks, you will be prepared to **counter attack** with the **Sword of the Spirit**, which is the **Word of God!** Don't forget to **speak them out loud** (*Rhema*) and so apply the full force of **God's Word** at the point of attack.

The Power of God's Word!

We in the West have often viewed words as merely abstract symbols by which we communicate, as evidenced by the age old children's rhyme:

"Sticks and stones

may break my bones,

"But words will never hurt me."

Of course, anyone who has been hurt by unkind statements knows that words do *indeed* have power to hurt, sometimes even *more*, and even longer, than 'sticks and stones' do. When I am hurt this way, I simply allay the hurt by applying the *healing Words of God and His Love*. **How He thinks about me trumps anything anyone else thinks about me!**

But God's Word has a *Power* even more than that. With it, God spoke all of Creation into existence. With it, He raised up a nation through which He etched out *His Commandments* and raised up a *young virgin* through whom He would send *His Only Begotten Son*.

His Words Teach, Rebuke, Correct and Train us for 'every good work'. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) And like the *Star Trek Phaser*, they can be 'set to stun' and cause men to collapse just by the force of them, as happened when Jesus affirmed His identity to the guards who came to the Garden with Judas to arrest Him, and sent them falling to the ground. (John 18:5-6)

But its most fearful power is displayed in the *Book of Revelation* when **John** sees the **Heavenly Christ** revealed in all His Glory which causes **John**, whom **Jesus** loved and chose to care for His mother, to fall on his face 'like a dead man' for fear. And even more fearful would be to see a 'sharp two edged sword' emerge from His mouth. (Revelation 1:12-17)

But that revelation will not be fully appreciated until **Christ Jesus** comes charging down from Heaven on His white steed to defend His chosen people, and strike down the 'nations' with the Sword from His mouth. I personally believe it is the same 'Sword of the Spirit ... the Word of God' mentioned in *Ephesians 6*: that will literally cut through the invading armies and spill their blood to the height of the horses' bridle. (Revelation 19:15; 14:20)

Prayer and Petition

Ephesians 6:18-20

- 18 **With all Prayer and Petition**
Pray at all times in the Spirit,
and with this in view,
be on the alert with all Perseverance and Petition
for All the Saints,
- 19 **and pray on my behalf,**
that utterance may be given to me
in the opening of my mouth,
to make known with boldness
the mystery of the gospel,
- 20 **for which I am an ambassador in chains;**
that in proclaiming it
I may speak boldly,
as I ought to speak.

How would you differentiate between Prayer and Petition? _____

Why does Paul emphasize the need to pray 'in the Spirit'? _____

What does Paul's prayer request tell us about him? _____

Why does Paul call himself 'an ambassador in chains'? _____

Prayer vs. Petition

Most people would probably say **Prayer** and **Petition** are synonymous. But if that were so, why would the **Apostle Paul**, who was probably writing this while chained in a prison cell, mention them successively? **Prayer** is the *spiritual experience of communing with our Heavenly Father*. **Petition** is the specific act of *bringing our requests to Him*. Of course, as **Jesus taught**, our **Heavenly Father** knows what we need even before we ask Him. But we petition Him anyway as an *act of worship and acknowledgement* that we are but *creatures* and are *dependent* on Him for our *total welfare*.

Ephesians 6:18-20 (Observations)
v18

Circle when and how we should pray.
Underline how we should be on the alert.

Underline for whom we should pray.
v19

Circle what they should do on Paul's behalf.

Underline what they should pray for.
Circle how Paul wants to make known the Gospel.

v20
Underline what Paul says he is.
Circle how he ought to speak.

"Pray ... In the Spirit"

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus made mention of Gentiles (*heathens*) praying with '*vain repetitions*'. This practice of repeating words or phrases over and over again, like a *mantra*, is still in use today.

Jesus told the woman of Samaria that the '*true worshippers*' would worship God in *Spirit* and in *Truth*. And this is how Paul says we should pray, for when we are in the Spirit, we are *linked* to *Christ's Mind*, and He is now able to *communicate* as well as *commune* with us.

In warfare, it is important to keep communications *open* between the *battle field* and the *Headquarters* in order to *coordinate* the movement of all the troops. By linking spiritually with *Christ*, He is now able to *direct us* as we *assail* the '*gates of hell*' in our effort to *liberate* those *imprisoned* by *satan*. **The Church** is composed completed of *liberated prisoners*!

Prayer: God's Air Support

When military units need help on the battle field, they call in *air support*. Few things give ground troops more comfort than to see their *air force* *above* supporting their position.

Prayer is like that. When Paul needed *boldness*, he asked for *prayer*. He also requested prayer for '*all the saints*'.

Prayer brings Divine intervention from above when it is needed most!

Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. What are our Offensive Weapons and how should we use them?

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?
