

Remnant Life Church
Sunday, April 7, 2013

“Everyday Armor – Part 7
The Sword of the Spirit”
Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12

- The Final piece of the 6 pieces of armor
 - The only offensive weapon (**PICTURE**)
 - 2 types of swords and a dagger
 - **Pugio** – more of a side arm dagger used for close combat; quick darting motions – pugilist (boxer)
 - **Gladius** – most common sword (gladiator – swordsman)
 - **Spatha** – long fighting sword
 - We can choose the blade we will use often by the environment we create during the fight
 - **Paul uses the sword as the descriptive piece because the Word of God should be used not as something to hide behind but a weapon to advance with and take back**
1. Satan has no defense against nor can he stand against the sword (the Word)
 - a. What is the word?
 - i. It is the scripture
 - ii. More accurately here Paul is referring to the spoken Word
 - b. The Word
 - i. **Logos** – used by John (“In the beginning was the Word – the totality of God’s Word)
 - ii. **Rhema** – the word Paul uses – a specific passage or verse
 - c. Evil **MUST** obey the Word of God
 - i. **Mark 1:25-27** – Jesus commands the evil spirit to come out

- d. We are given that same authority and power
 - i. **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.*
 - e. **Authority** (in both verses)– (**ex-oo-SEE-ah**) the power of rule or government; the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed
 - i. **Isaiah 9:7** - *Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.*
2. Jesus used the sword against Satan in the desert (**Matt. 4; Luke 4**)
- a. **Temptation 1** – (**Luke 4:3**) – stones to bread – physical hunger
 - b. **Response 1** – (**Luke 4:4**) – **Deut. 8:3** referring to God providing manna to the Israelites but wanting them to know that the physical is not the most important concern but living by God’s Word
 - c. **Temptation 2** – (**Luke 4:6**) – kingdoms of the world – physical greed
 - d. **Response 2** – (**Luke 4:8**) – **Deut. 6:13** – Moses’ teachings of God’s laws to the Israelites
 - e. **Temptation 3** – (**Luke 4:9-11**) – throw yourself off the roof – physical safety
 - i. Quotes **Psalm 91:11-12**
 - ii. INCORECTLY quoted – not about Jesus but a child of God
 - f. **Response 3** – (**Luke 4:12**) – **Deut. 6:16** – Do not test God
3. **Hebrews 4:12** - *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.*
- a. The human is made up of three parts

- i. Body – 5 senses
 - ii. Soul – the will, emotions and mind
 - iii. Spirit – conscience (the battle-ground for the Christian)
- b. The sword of God's Word separates the soul and the spirit
- i. It must to remove the ungodly (flesh nature) and allow the Godly (spirit nature)
 - ii. Conscience (spirit) drives the will feeding the emotions (soul) prompting our actions (body)

In his book, "How Great Generals Win", Bevin Alexander (American military historian and author) tells of "The General Who Beat Hannibal". Hannibal was from Carthage in modern Tunisia the northern most tip of Africa. One of Hannibal's most effective tactics was the use of elephants in battle. For years Roman soldiers and horses were ineffective against the elephants - until the Roman general Scipio Africanus made a brilliant decision to startle Hannibal's elephants with trumpets and cause them to retreat in fear. Until the defeat of Hannibal, the Romans could not make the move toward world domination.

Like Hannibal, Satan uses intimidating seemingly overpowering tools to win spiritual battles against us. We CAN stand against him and be victorious with weapons that even he cannot counter: truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word.

- The sword (the spoken Word of God) will ALWAYS drive the enemy away!
- We speak it by keeping it in our hearts because Jesus said that out of the overflow from the heart the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45)