

# The Sword of the Spirit

## Ephesians 6:17

Living the Christian life in a hostile world is not for quitters. 2 Timothy 2:2,10,12

We are on Satan's turf and are the target of his "flaming arrows".

This evil one is in control of this world 1 John 5:19

The world chooses to exclude God and the Christian who is committed to Him.

Satan hates us = fights us = seeks to trip us up.

The sword of the spirit is our only weapon of offense. Jesus is our example. Matthew 4:1-11

- I. The Sword of the Spirit = It is the Word of God.
  - A. Paul saw the short sword of the Roman soldier used in hand to hand combat.
    1. It was two-edged, 16" to 18" long and was readily available.
    2. It required a lot of training to be used effectively, control and strength.
    3. It was used for personal fighting, defense, person to person combat.
  - B. So is our Sword of the Spirit
    1. Sharper than any two-edged sword.
    2. Available to all.
    3. Study and be trained to use it effectively. 2 Timothy 2:15
  - C. Satan attacks our sword:
    1. From within = Theologians = claiming it "contains" the word of God. NO, it is the Word of God.
    2. From without = charge it has errors historically.
    3. From ignorance = keeping people from studying it.
    4. From Cults = promoters of false teaching.
    5. From different translations.
- II. The Word of God is
  - A. Perfect = Psalm 19:7-11, Proverbs 30:5
    1. Written by 40 authors on 3 continents, over 1600 years and no contradictions.
    2. Real author is God, the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16
  - B. Prophetic
    1. Look back on the history of the Jews.
    2. Life of Jesus, birth and death.

- C. Preserved
  - 1. God has kept it.
  - 2. Isaiah 40:8
- D. Protective = this is what the struggle is all about.
  - 1. It protects our happiness = enjoyment in life.
  - 2. It guides our decision making = what to do Psalm 119:105
  - 3. It gives confidence = delivers from our fears. Psalm 34:4
- E. Powerful
  - 1. Always accomplishes God's purposes if we use it. Isaiah 55:11
  - 2. It is living and active.
- F. Should be our Priority
  - 1. It has been said it takes 71 hours to read.
  - 2. 71 hours = 60 min. = 4,260 minutes divided by 365 days = 11.7 minutes a day for a year.