

# The Sword of the Spirit

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. *“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;”* (Ephesians 6:17)
- B. The only offensive weapon mentioned in Ephesians 6 is the sword. The belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, and helmet were not offensive. Their purpose was defensive. They were to protect the soldier against the enemy. The sword was designed to defeat the enemy’s plan and rescue lives.
- C. Paul compares living the Christian life to warfare in Ephesians 6:10-13. He makes it clear that God provides an armor but that we must put it on!
- D. The Holy Spirit furnishes the “sword,” the truth which he has revealed. This sword is the “word of God.” (Hebrews 4:12)

## I. LET US LOOK AT THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE OLD TESTAMENT FOR A MOMENT.

- A. We find 88 references to the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.
- B. The Holy Spirit is the one by whom the Old Testament was given. (2 Peter 1:19-21)
  - 1. The theme of 2 Peter is Knowledge and is used 16 times in three chapters. Consider some of the passages. (2 Peter 1:2-3; 1:5-8; 2:20; 3:18)
  - 2. Christianity is not dealing with fables. (2 Peter 1:16-19)
  - 3. Christ confirmed prophecy and prophecy, therefore, proves that Christ is genuine. (2 Peter 1:19)
  - 4. Prophecy did not come by the will of man. (2 Peter 2:21)

5. Prophecy then according to 2 Peter 2:21 is men speaking from God, therefore, forth telling the word of God.
6. Based on the scriptures that we have examined thus far, we can see that the Old Testament Scripture is without a doubt the Word of God.

## II. NOW LET US LOOK AT THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- A. There are some 200 references to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.
- B. The Holy Spirit is the one by whom the new Testament was given. (1 Corinthians 2:9-14)
  1. Paul tells the Corinthian brethren that there is a need for revelation. (1 Corinthians 2:9)
  2. Paul tells us from whom the Revelation comes. (1 Corinthians 2:10)
  3. This Revelation by the Spirit is in words. (1 Corinthians 2:13)
- C. The Holy Spirit has revealed the truth about the church. (Ephesians 3:1-7)
  1. This revelation is in words. Look at verse four again and consider the words of Paul, *“When you read . . . you may understand my knowledge.”*
  2. Paul tells us in verse four that the word could be understood. (cf. John 1:1-3)

## III. WHAT THE WORD DOES THE SPIRIT DOES!

- A. The Spirit is the one who produces a new birth through the Word of God. (1 Peter 1:22-25; cf. 1 John 3:9; James 1:18)
- B. The Spirit sanctifies people by the word of truth.
  1. The apostle Paul wrote, *“God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth . . .”* (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)

2. Jesus said, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.” (John 17:17)
- C. The Spirit leads people to become God’s children.
1. The apostle Paul wrote, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God . . .” (Romans 8:14-17)
  2. Let us ask the question: How does the Spirit lead people?
    - a. The apostle Paul said that the “righteousness of God” is revealed in the “gospel of Christ” which is the “power of God to salvation.” (Romans 1:16-17)
    - b. Those who have “obeyed from the heart” the “doctrine of Christ” were “delivered” to the “doctrine of Christ” by the work of the Holy Spirit when He inspired men to write the word. (Romans 6:17-18)

## CONCLUSION.

- A. Why do people limit the work of the Holy Spirit by denying that He can accomplish His work by using His sword – namely, the word of God?
- B. The Holy Spirit is active today leading people to be born again, leading people to a sanctified life, and leading people to become God’s children.
- C. Finally, we must understand that there is no direct indwelling of the Holy Spirit. To believe this would be to deny the Apostle Paul’s statement to put on the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Everything that we have said in this lesson points to the fact that it is the indirect indwelling through the Word of God that the Spirit does His work. When you think about it, the more the word dwells in you, the more the Spirit dwells in you.