



## The Sword of the Spirit

I've always longed for more information on the sword of the spirit. I've absorbed the Roman soldier weapon aspect many times over, but generally felt a lack of vital and spiritual information. Let's quest to discover a few greater meanings behind the sword of the spirit and its application to our more than abundant lives.

**(Eph 6:17-18 KJV) And take the helmet of salvation [soterion—defender or defense—salvation], and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: {18} Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**

Ephesians 6 contains the primary 'sword of the spirit' reference. Notice in verse 17 that it is coupled with the helmet of salvation. No warrior would ever consider go-



ing to battle without head protection. One step onto the battle field and he'd be done for. That said, shouldn't we start at the verse's beginning?

### Take

The word 'take' comes from *dechomai* which means, 'to receive subjectively or inwardly' [in your thoughts and heart] as opposed to receiving objectively or outwardly [in your actions].

We are to inwardly receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit. That makes sense. We do not TAKE salvation or the sword of the spirit, we receive them inwardly. Think

inward reception for both of them, perhaps a challenge to you at this moment, but stick with me.

This is akin to how you initially received God's gift of holy spirit from on high. You received the gift inwardly; no feelings were attached. If they had been, the reception could have been considered an outward reception whereby you manifested some outward indication of the reception of the gift. You received the gift of holy spirit inwardly—no outward signs.

### Helmet of Salvation

We find a second reference to the helmet of salvation in 1 Thessalonians 5.

**(1 Th 5:8 KJV) But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love [agape]; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation [soteria—deliver, health, salvation, save,**

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saving].

And a third reference in Isaiah 59 that largely addresses the helmet.

(Isa 59:17 KJV) For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.

Here, Jehovah is touted as Israel's champion. The two weapons listed are defensive weapons made specifically for defending oneself. The Bible is quite clear on this subject of defense, and they are also used by God. We are supposed to be adept at defending ourselves, but the battle is not ours. The battle belongs to God.

(1 Sam 17:47 KJV) And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.

God delivers us just as well as he delivered those in the past. God is our defender. That's what "God is our sal-

vation" means. With this mindset, how could you possibly lose any spiritual ground?

(Luke 2:30 KJV) For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

The above reference to 'thy salvation' is exactly as I mentioned above; God is our defender. The Greek word *soterion* is used, not of salvation itself, but of Jehovah himself. He defends us. We are to receive our defenses inwardly. We receive God in Christ in us and we are ready for anything, but we must have a defensive mindset.

(Phil 3:14 KJV) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

God is in Christ and Christ is in us. Truly, our citadel is within. The vitality of this arrangement is typified by our defense being placed on or in our heads—because of our spiritual nature. How 'defensive-minded' are you? How many battles that you face do you relegate to God? David was faced with this challenge when preparing to face the giant Goliath.

(1 Sam 17:39 KJV)

And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

He couldn't use any of his armor because he had not proved them. I'd say that it is time to put our armor to the test—prove what you've been gifted.

## What is helmet?

An Old Testament reference to helmet clarifies what a helmet looks like.

(Isa 59:17 KJV) For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet [kowba-Hebrew] of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.

The helmet [kowba} is a head covering, generally considered high or rounded like an arch over the head.

The word of God tells us to cover our heads with the truth that God is at war with

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our enemies, and that he will defend us. Maybe the French were right in naming their arch, one of the most famous monuments in Paris, the Arch of Triumph? Receive your triumphant arch inwardly.

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I would be remiss if I did not include verse 18 in the following quote.

**(Eph 6:17-18 KJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword [machaira-a war knife] of the Spirit, which is the word of God: {18} Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**

These 2 verses must always be used together. Separating them will destroy the unity of the sword and prayer.

## The Sword

Sword comes from the Greek word *machaira*-a war knife, the definition of which relates to the physical realm. What we have received, or

will received has nothing to do with the physical realm. It has all to do with receiving something from God from heaven, a place in which you'll find no mortality, carnality, or sensuality. You'll be surprised at the weaponry you'll one day discover there, but today, we are told that this weapon is 'the word of God.'

I ask you to replace thoughts of a physical sword with thoughts of the word of God.

The sword of the spirit is received inwardly and is the word of God.

## The word of God

*Logos* is a hugely familiar Greek word in biblical studies; *rhema* is not.

In Ephesians 6:17, *rhema* is the Greek word translated 'word'. Whereas *logos* refers to words in general, *rhema* refers to specific guidance 'words' from God for a specific purpose. When God wants to guide you through a battle situation, he does so with *rhema* words. If you need to do so, please remove the word *logos* from your understanding of the phrase

'sword of the spirit.' Please replace it with *rhema*.

When receiving the sword of the spirit which is a specific word from God for a specific battle situation (in this case), inwardly receive the word of God with a defensive mindset. Inward reception is not outward reception. Inward reception is not manifested on the outside; outward reception is manifested on the outside. This *rhema* word of God is received inwardly. In other words, it is received by revelation. You may be wondering if this is a 'word of knowledge' or 'word of wisdom' as listed in 1 Corinthians 12.

**(1 Cor 12:8 KJV) For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;**

At this time in my understanding, I am not free to say that this *rhema* word in Ephesians 6:17 is a word of knowledge or word of wisdom either. Both of the latter use the Greek word *logos*. Your defense against the wiles of the devil is centered on God's inward *rhema* to you.

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Earlier, I asked you to replace thoughts of a physical sword with thoughts of the word of God. The sword of the spirit is received inwardly and is the word of God. I also asked you to couple verses 17 and 18 because they are united in cause and effect.

(Eph 6:17-18 KJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: {18} Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Let's do exactly that.

(Eph 6:17-18 KJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the WORD OF GOD PRAYING with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

## Guard Duty

Inward reception of *rhema* is uniquely coupled with prayer.

Inwardly receive the *rhema* from God for a specific defense against the wiles of the devil PRAYING in the spirit.

## Watching

Take this a step further. This activity of inwardly receiving *rhema* from God during spiritual prayer enables you to become a bonified watcher. We are to watch out for each other; especially requested of leadership and of the faithful in Christ of Ephesians. That is the real reason for such unique and powerful guidance from God.

'Watching' comes from the Greek word *agrupneo* which means, 'to be sleepless, to keep awake, to watch.'

(Mark 13:31-33 KJV) Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. {32} But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no,

not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. {33} Take ye heed, **watch** [*agrupneo*] and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

(Luke 21:33-36 KJV) Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. {34} And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. {35} For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. {36} **Watch** [*agrupneo*] ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Your leaders are required to be on guard duty, but you can be too if you are a faithful in Christ Ephesians defender of the faith.

(Heb 13:17 KJV) Obey them that have the rule

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over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

The ones who have the rule over other believers do so in order to watch sleeplessly for others' souls. These watchers will give account to God for their watching. Fantastic information to say the least.

## Speaking in Tongues

I can definitively state that 'praying in the spirit' is 'speaking in tongues.'

1 Corinthians 12 lists this unique and personal manifestation of the gift of holy spirit as 'kinds of tongues.'

(1 Cor 12:10 KJV) **To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:**

Every man can manifest all nine manifestations of the

gift of holy spirit as is stated in verse 7.

(1 Cor 12:7 KJV) **But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.**

This might be revelation to some; it clarifies who has the ability to defend against the wiles of the devil—everyone who is born again. Of course, this means that a new believer in Christ must speak in tongues much in his private prayer life. By doing so, he or she will be in a defensive stance against any wiles and will be prepared (like David was) to slay any giant that comes their way.

The sword of the spirit is specific *rhema* guidance received inwardly for defensive purposes related to watching out for other believers' souls—through the ongoing manifestation of speaking in tongues. Speaking in tongues turns out to be the weapon of choice in that *rhema* will flow to you as needed and determined by our great defender Jehovah.

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown