

Spiritual Warfare

**Armor:
Sword of the Spirit**
Message 7

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November 6, 2022

► Outline

...take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

Ephesians 6:17b (NLT)

A. Introduction

(Ephesians 6:10-17. C/R: 2 Corinthians 2:11; James 4:7;
1 Peter 5:8-9)

The Sword of the Spirit represents capable
use of the _____.

English "Word" = Greek, *lōgōs* and *rhema*.

B. The Sword of the Spirit battles Satan's strategies: (Matthew 13:3-7,19-22)

1. Denying the _____ of the Word.
(Matthew 13:19. C/R: Psalm 119:11; John 17:17;
2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:25)

2. Disobeying the Word because of _____.
(Matthew 13:20-21. C/R: Matthew 7:24-25;
1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:3)

3. Discarding the Word for the _____.
(Matthew 13:22. C/R: Psalm 119:37; 1 Corinthians 10:13;
1 John 2:15-17)

Answers: A. Bible B. 1. relevancy 2. problems 3. world

Resource Information: Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit brookwoodchurch.org/adults.

Conversation Starter

What's one of your favorite passages in the Bible? Why?

Begin your study with prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Then ask God for insight and direction as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

Bible Study and Group Discussion

Read Ephesians 6:10-17.

The apostle Paul listed several pieces of armor worn by Roman soldiers to teach us about the spiritual armor given to us by God. This week our focus is on the *sword of the Spirit*, which is the Word of God.

Read Matthew 13:1-9.

1. Throughout the ages, God has spoken to us through His Word, represented by *seeds* in this parable. What are ways you study the Bible?
2. What do you usually look for when reading Scripture—information, comfort, understanding, guidance, a word from God, communion with God? How are each of these important?
3. When have you been most inspired to study and understand the Bible? What caused such hunger?
4. Describe a time a truth from the Bible was relevant for you.

Read Matthew 13:18-23.

5. Each soil represents one of four responses to God's Word. Describe what they are. What are modern-day examples of these?
6. How does knowing God's Word help you fight the attacks of Satan?
7. When have troubles or worries crowded out God's Word in your life?

8. What does it mean for the Word to *produce a harvest* (vs. 23)?
9. Jesus spoke according to the agricultural customs of His day. In the ancient world, first the seed was sown, and then the soil was turned over with the plow. If you were to dig a little deeper into the condition of your heart, which soil most closely describes you?
10. How can you *take the sword of the Spirit* as part of your armor this week?

Spiritual Practice

A spiritual practice is something we can do to help us live in and enjoy God's grace. We hope these practices become a regular part of your life so that walking and talking with God is the most natural thing you do.

Regularly being with God in His Word is a way we cultivate *good soil* in our hearts, giving us eyes to see and ears that hear His voice. Common ways to do this are hearing, reading, studying, memorizing and meditating. Make sure to practice your favorite method this week! Choose a method you're less familiar with to try. Ask God to help you grow in learning and applying His Word to your life.

Memory Verse

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the Word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

Daily Reading

Day 1: John 17:13-19

Day 4: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Day 2: Psalm 119:9-16

Day 5: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Day 3: 1 Peter 1:21-25

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, November 13, we'll conclude the series *Spiritual Warfare*. To prepare, read **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** and **1 John 5:13-15**.



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