

# Blade Runner

## Ephesians 6:17b

**Main focus of this series:** This series is a formulation of key teachings and understandings from the book of Ephesians. In an effort to decipher each statement of Paul in Ephesians we believe we will learn how to successfully operate in the three positions of the believer: to **sit** (Ephesians 1-3), to **walk** (Ephesians 4-6:9) and over the next few weeks we will address the thought... **stand** (Ephesians 6:10-24) .

**The importance of this message today:** It would be an atrocity to minimize the importance of this scripture we are addressing today. The first half explains our personal protection and significance of holding to our salvation by the helmet of God's Word. But now the verse turns us outward, not on ourselves but on our enemy and the power of God's Word, it's purpose and intent. This is a very significant point that we learn today because without it we are basically without offensive weapon. To take this sword of God's Word is to take the battle forward, aggressively attacking the enemy and proclaiming the Kingdom of God on this Earth. You cannot have the will of God without the Word of God! Without this sword we can never fully fulfill the will of God and His Kingdom cannot come. God relies on us to take this sword, this powerful sword and conquer the enemy of our own soul and the souls of men and women. A Christian who does not realize the potential and responsibility of this weapon has been fooled and blinded to the full potential of God's impact on mankind...and all the while we pray, "Lord have your way," and He is patiently responding, "You are the way if the Word is in you!" Learn today of God's sword. Train with it. Become familiar with it. Attack with it. Be bold with it. It is the Word of God!

**Joke-** Do you know what you get when you play a country song backward? You get your job back, you get your house back, your wife back, your truck back ...

If you get God's Word correct then you get back what your enemy has and is trying to steal from you. Personally and corporately, we are involved in a vicious battle with Satan because we are intentionally focusing our prayers and energies on praying the will of God and then obeying the will of God. What is more evident to us than anything else is that God has not finished reaching the people of Garden City or the surrounding area with His love and grace. He is still inquiring of us to respond to His Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20.

***"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."***  
Ephesians 6:17

I am sharing today a message entitled, "Blade Runner." I'm not using this title because it has similarities of the 1982 sci-fi classic movie starring Harrison Ford, having the same name. But the title provides a great picture of our message in our mind, much like the term "4X4" presents a picture of mud flying behind of the tires of an off road vehicle for men. In **Ephesians 6:10-17**, we have been learning about the weapons that Paul encourages us to put on. The belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, covering our feet with the gospel of peace, taking up the shield of faith, and placing on our head the helmet of salvation. Today we are taking up the only offensive weapon that can have the greatest affect in our warfare against Satan. Since a "Blade Runner" is a fictitious name, we can give it any kind of definition that we want to. And I want to.

I want you to think about this for a minute. God has constantly provided evidence of His presence and will through that of an angel and a sword, I'm calling them "Blade Runners."

### Adam and Eve Was Confronted By An Angel With A Sword

***"After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life."***

Genesis 3:24

- **Cherubim** are a particular class of heavenly angels who have special assignments of guarding God's throne, a Heavenly Secret Service.
- The **Holy Place** and the Holy of Holies had a **veil** that contained figures of the **cherubim woven into it**.
- Inside the Holy of Holies was the **Ark of the Covenant**, with a golden lid called the Mercy Seat. **Over the Mercy Seat** were the two golden cherubim whose wings almost touched. Once a year on the Day of Atonement, the high priest, entered the Holy of Holies, carrying with him the blood of the sacrifice to sprinkle on the Mercy Seat. The sacrifice was consumed by fire from heaven, signifying that the Lord had covered the sins of the people. If anyone besides the high priest entered the Holy of Holies, or if the high priest was unclean or entered on any other day than the Day of Atonement, or if he did not bring the blood of the sacrifice, he would be put to death. **The cherubim were there to symbolically say, "You can't come to God on your own. You can't make it up as you go along. You must come to God in his way, or you can't come at all."**



### Balaam Was Confronted By An Angel With A Sword

In Numbers 22, Balak, a Moabite King attempted to hire Balaam who was a prophet of God with the power to bless and curse. Balak had no problem with this...neither did Balaam. He was gifted and anointed and God knew that his words could bind or loose. In prayer that night Balaam was confronted with God and He told him to abstain from cursing them because they were blessed. He refused Balak's wishes and Balak attempted to entice him again. That next time Balaam could have sworn He heard God say,

*"That night God came to Balaam and said, 'Since these men have come to summon you, go with them, but do only what I tell you.'"*

Numbers 22:20

He decided to go with them the next morning which made God very angry!

***"When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, she turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat her to get her back on the road."***

Numbers 22:23

This type of thing happened a total of three times until the donkey actually spoke up in a voice that Balaam could understand and the eyes of Balaam were opened and he saw and heard the angel:

*"...I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me. The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared her."*

Numbers 22:32b-33

### **Joshua Was Confronted By An Angel With A Sword**

In Joshua 5, we find the children of Israel having crossed the Jordan river on dry land and now God commands all the men who were born in the 40 year period to be circumcised. The place where they were at was called Gilgal, meaning: "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." In other words, "You are no longer in BONDAGE! They celebrated the Passover which was the journey out of that bondage and they ate of the fruit of the land they were called to conquer and that was the day manna stopped being provided by God.

*"Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and **saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand**. Joshua went up to him and asked, 'Are you for us or for our enemies?'"*

Joshua 5:13

***"Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come."** Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, **"What message does my Lord have for his servant?"***

Joshua 5:14

When we come to the Word of God we are full of questions. Most of the time, we are so busy asking questions and making requests to God that Jesus can't even get a word in edgewise! His Word has precedence over any agenda we might have. God was not proving His distance with Joshua, He was proving His Sovereignty, His Holiness and His authority. Too often we become too familiar with the one who allows us to breath, not that at any moment He would want to wisp it away, but that He has an agenda for us and the world.

- **See, the question is not, "Is God for us?" The question that we must be asking ourselves is, "Are we for God?"** The 'man,' didn't answer that question. He merely said **"Neither,"** he replied, **"but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come."** Now most of us at that point would have said "Hey! Didn't you hear me, "Are you for me or against me?" But what did Joshua do? He fell to his face (in reverence) and asked "what message do you have for me, your servant?"

**When God shows up, He does not come to take sides....He comes to take over. We are not to question if God is on our side, but if we are on God's side.**

### **The New Hebride Tribe Was Confronted By Angels With Swords**

**ONE NIGHT, JOHN PATON AND HIS WIFE**--a missionary couple in the New Hebrides Islands--were awakened by chants outside their mission station. Looking out, they saw that scores of hostile islanders had surrounded the station with torches, intent on burning the place down and killing the missionary couple. The Patons got down on their knees and prayed throughout the night, asking God to deliver them. The tense, dark hours passed, yet the islanders kept their distance.

Finally, around daybreak, the Patons looked out the window--and the hostile tribesmen were gone. John Paton was baffled. There seemed to be nothing preventing the islanders from attacking, yet no attack came. Paton didn't find out why the islanders left so mysteriously until a year later, when the chief of the tribe was won to Christ. Remembering the night-long siege of a year before, John Paton asked the newly converted chief why the tribesmen had departed instead of burning the mission station to the ground. "We were afraid of the men who were with you," the chief replied.

"What men?" asked Paton.

"There were a hundred tall men around the mission house that night," said the chief. "Their clothing shone with light, and they had swords in their hands. We knew that they would never let us harm you, so we went back to our village."

God has constantly provided evidence of His presence and will through that of an angel and a sword, "Blade Runners." They stood in the way of something happening outside the will of God, and they were totally focused only on the will of God. They did not negotiate, think or leave their post. They were committed to the purpose they were sent for.

- **Sword** (*machaira*) The Greek term translated refers to the Roman gladius, a short sword about **2 ft (60 cm) long, used for close hand-to-hand combat**. This sword was for cutting and stabbing the enemy. The fact that it was two-edged made it possible to strike on either side without changing its position in the hand, and its razor-sharp point could pierce armor. The sword mentioned above and the word of God both serve for attack and to resist the thrusts of the enemy.

## Blade Runners

**When we use the Word of God we become the Blade Runners of God. This Word becomes the means of our own personal salvation and relationship with God and when we are used by the Word of God it becomes the means of sending and defending the will and purpose of God.**

*"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."*

Matthew 10:34

**Jesus' strong statements to His disciples in John 10:34 has cause great concern and confusion.** Many people have struggled over that verse attempting to make sense of it. Jesus is telling us that the sword He was bringing was that of the Word of God, it was Christ Himself in spoken form.

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."*

John 1:1-3

## Blade Runner Gone Bad

**King Saul was intended to be a Blade Runner for God. He was to carry out the will of the Lord. We have ways to thinking of people differently when they fail,**

but King Saul was a Blade Runner gone bad. **God's Word Cannot Be Compromised- No matter who you are or what your position!**

**Saul Our Example: He was anointed and appointed:**

- **I Samuel 9-** Samuel connects with Saul as God points him out to him and says, *"...Anoint him, (Saul), leader over my people Israel; he will deliver my people from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked upon my people, for their cry has reached me."*  
I Samuel 9:16b

- **I Samuel 10- Samuel anoints Saul as King and sends him on a confirming journey**

*"Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the LORD **anointed you leader** over his inheritance?"*  
I Samuel 10:1

**Saul Our Example: Appointed To Lead the Nation of Israel**

- Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the LORD at Mizpah, (I Samuel 10:17)
- Samuel chooses one of the 12 tribes, Benjamin, then one of the clans, Marti clan, then finally **appointed one of the individual's**, Saul, (Who was hid among the luggage). (I Samuel 10:20-23)
- **Saul goes home with valiant Men!**

**Saul Our Example: He was valiant:**

- **I Samuel 11-** Jabesh Gilead was under siege. In an effort to create a treaty with the enemy it was suggested that everyone gouge out their right eye, thus to, "...bring disgrace on all Israel." (I Samuel 11:1-2) It would make them incapable to fight in war affectively and disable them. In response to this suggestion they asked for seven days to respond. And word went out to see if there was a solution...and there was.
  - **Saul Responds** (Verse 3-6) Saul was returning from the field and heard the people weeping out loud. When inquiring of it he found out the details and some thing happened.

*"When Saul heard their words, **the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he burned with anger.**"*  
I Samuel 11:6

- **Saul responded in anger and united Israel in fear. (Verse 6-7)**
- Saul took a pair of Oxen and cut them into pieces and sent them throughout Israel basically threatening that if you did not respond, the same would happen to your Oxen.
- **Saul responded in strategic plan and action. (Verses 8-11)**
  - 300,000 men came from Israel and 30,000 came from Judah. They assured their fellow brothers that they would avenge them. Saul divided his troops into three groups and in the middle of the night attacked and continued to do so until the heat of the day, killing all

of the Ammonites in sight. Not one was with another.

- **Saul responded in grace and kindness and was reaffirmed as King. (Verses 12-15)**
  - They wanted to put to death the men who had disagreed with Saul's appointment as king and Saul would not allow it. (vs. 12-13)
  - Samuel gathered all the people at Gilgal and once again established him as king and all the people celebrated.

- **1 Samuel 13**

- Johnathan, Saul's son attacks a Philistine outpost with a thousand men and there were only three thousand present. Jonathan believed what God had said about conquering the enemy. (Verse 1-10)
- Thousands and thousands of Philistines showed up

*"When the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear."*

I Samuel 13:6-7

*"He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and **Saul's men began to scatter**. So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him."*

I Samuel 13:8-10

**You cannot ignore the Word of God to achieve the Word of God!** After just two years of service he has was part of an incredible, phenomenal event that dissolved to a horrible situation. Saul had been victorious in the past and was moving in the direction of the enemy.

When someone puts you on the spot for your faith in God's Word, what do you do? (Vs. 3) **Jonathan and his 1000 men attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba** and the Philistines heard about it. See, we can rally all we want too, but when it awakens the enemy we are actually found out for who we are. Jonathan really believed his dad and had faith in the stories that he told. He had incredible faith in the concept that if we are of God, no matter how little we are, we can defeat the enemy, no matter how big they are. For some reason, Saul was attempting to look "good", "mighty," "powerful," and his son believed him. There is something here that we must see. There is the illusion of a warrior and then there is the real thing! Jonathan could not tell the difference.

Like in the movie, "**Galaxy Quest**," **Sarris**, the evil galaxy conquerer comes to invade the universe and **Tim Allan portrays Jason Nesmith**, a Star Trek type of captain who was now on television reruns after his show had been canceled some eighteen years later. Their sci-fi adventure show "Galaxy Quest" was canceled and were now making appearances at sci-fi conventions and store openings in costume and character. They're wallowing in despair and at each other's throats until aliens known as **Thermians** arrive from a galaxy far away had been receiving transmissions of the

show believing that they were documentaries. Their hope was that Jason Nesmith, (Tim Allen) could save them from the genocidal General Sarris and his murdering army. A When the failing defenseless fleet transport Tim Allan, Sigourney Weaver and other supporting cast onto their "Star Fleet," **Tim Allan's arrogance to admit that he was just like anyone else put him and the ailing ships crew at the hands of Sarris nearly killing themselves and a whole galaxy as well.**"

### The Inexperience of A Young Blade Runner

*"What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash, I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."*

I Samuel 13:11-12

*"You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. 14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command."*

I Samuel 13:13-14

*"Then Samuel left Gilgal and went up to Gibeah in Benjamin, and Saul counted the men who were with him. **They numbered about six hundred.**"*

I Samuel 13:15

*"Raiding parties went out from the Philistine camp..."*

I Samuel 13:17

***"So on the day of the battle not a soldier with Saul and Jonathan had a sword or spear in his hand; only Saul and his son Jonathan had them."***

***I Samuel 13:22***

This is a sad day for Saul and the nation of Israel. His greatest achievement in his 42 years as king took place in the first two years.

***"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."***

***Ephesians 6:12-13***

### The Devil

The New York Times reported a study about Americans belief in the devil. In a nationwide telephone survey by Barna's research, a **1,007 randomly selected people were telephoned and polled:**(Is Satan Real? Most People Think Not, By Gustav Nieburhr, Published: May 10, 1997)

- **Two-thirds of them do not believe in the devil as a living entity.**
- In another survey, over 1,000 Americans were polled and asked whether they

agreed that Satan is **"not a living being, but a symbol of evil."** **Sixty-two percent agreed with the statement.**

Some believers seem to have the same attitude when it comes to spiritual warfare. They believe it isn't real. They don't believe in demons; some don't believe in Satan; and they certainly don't believe that we are fighting spiritual battles on a daily basis. Unfortunately, that is exactly what the devil wants us to believe. If he can somehow get us to ignore the fact of spiritual warfare, he has succeeded. We should know and understand that Satan is real and evil is real and that this is our number one enemy as believers in Jesus Christ. Every Christian who is living a faithful life, and every church that is faithful in its calling to bring people into a full encounter with Jesus Christ, is engaged in spiritual warfare. When we are faithful, God blesses. And when God blesses, Satan attacks.

No matter when or how you come to Christ, you will find that we are all called to respond to the Great Commission, the final mandate of Jesus, to be a Blade Runner for Christ. In doing so, you will find a conflict in the spiritual realm greater and more distracting than anything that you have ever experienced. One of the main purposes of our gathering is to refreshen ourselves in the love of God, connect and encourage other believers in the process and refocus our purpose as a believer. As I write this, this very moment, Satan is attacking this body of believers with an all-out assault to put us out of commission, to cause one or two of us to be the only ones with a weapon to fight with. **But this is not God's plan nor our destiny!**

Satan would love to attack our church through discouraging and distracting me as your pastor. He would love for our elders to have conflict with one another and confuse our real purpose here. He would love to take every individual in our church and cause you to become isolated, separated wolf food and miss the full purpose and anointing for the hour. I like the quote I recently read that the Salvation Army ministry teams used to state:

- **Quote: The devil and me, we don't agree; I hate him; and he hates me. – Salvation Army Hymn. (Edythe Draper, Draper's Book of Quotations for the Christian World (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992). Entries 2671.)**
- **The Fighter:** There was a fighter who had only gone five rounds. He was already bloody and bruised. He fell into the ropes near his corner and the referee decided to give him a standing eight count. Standing there he turned and said to his manager, "Please throw in the towel!" And the manager said, "What do you mean throw in the towel? That guy hasn't laid a glove on you!" To which the fighter said, "Well, you need to start watching the referee because someone's beating the daylights out of me!"

*"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."*

## Ephesians 6:12-13

### The Wrestler

Paul uses a Greek athletic term in the word wrestle. Thayer defines this word as 'a contest between two in which each endeavors to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to press and hold down his prostrate antagonist, namely, hold him down with his hand upon his neck.' In the Greek wrestling arena it is believed that the loser would have his eyes gouged out, resulting blindness for the rest of his life. Paul was not discussing a humerus WWF show on TV. He was talking about a struggle that would determine the rest of your life and the lives of others.

**The Sword of the Spirit**...which is the Word of God, is a powerful weapon of spiritual warfare. It is an offensive weapon that we must learn to take up and use.

**"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."**  
Ephesians 6:17

### Three Things To Do As A Blade Runner

#### 1. Take It Up

Paul is telling us that we must **"take,"** literally pick up the sword of the Spirit, why? Because we are destined to our own thoughts and ways and God does not operate according to those.

**Take His Word intentionally,**

##### 1. It is God's Word and not mans.

Paul commends those who had heard His message believed on God's Word.

***"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe."***

I Thessalonians 2:13

##### 2. It is an ETERNAL Word and not a passing statement.

***"...so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."***

Isaiah 55:11

##### 3. It has accomplishing power and intended purpose.

- I don't have to be overwhelmed with my ability, I don't even rely on His ability in and through me. I totally depend on the anointed Word of God.
- I know that it has a purpose that I am not always sure of. Sometimes when I preach the Word of God I wonder why God stresses one point or another or has me take a step over to one point that may seem unrelated, but after service, three weeks down the road or sometimes a year I realize that the Word was either prophetic, it was intentional and purposed by the Holy Spirit or addressing issues I didn't even know those in our church had. The Word of God...take it up!

*"For the word of God is living 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."*

Hebrews 4:12

#### 4. It is a means of identifying WHOSE you are.

*"For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because **those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**"*

Romans 8:13-14

## 2. Take It In

*"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."*

Romans 10:17

It is not our thoughts or our ways that God is impressed with nor is Satan in fear of, but it is those who wield the sword of the Word of God and operate according to the "Rhema" Word of God in their life. We are so impressed with our own concepts and ask God to bless them when the results would never reflect His will or personality.

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

Isaiah 55:8-9

**This Word of God is a translation of the will of God through the means of the Holy Spirit of God to the souls man.** This is why your only true capability in understanding God is to come through Jesus Christ, the savior of the world and the Word of God. When you place your faith on the promises of God's word, your sword is the weapon linked with God's power. **A man came to Jesus, bringing his son who had convulsions since he was a baby, often throwing him into the fire and water. He asks Jesus if he could do anything please help! Jesus' response was:**

*"If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."*

Mark 9:23

**Satan is appalled at your discovery of this. More so, he is terrified if you share that insight with anyone else.** As one who understands the Word of God and one who shares the Word of God, both are an attack on his earthly kingdom. **This confidence to stand on God's Word and this conviction to share God's Word both attack and annihilate the enemy. The enemy can not stand, they must retreat!**

When the sword, the Word of God is used properly, God's power and resources are available to us. It is helpful for us to examine the meaning of the Greek words Logos and Rhema, which are often used for the "word" of God.

**Logos** - 3056- written word of God : Logos is often used to identify the written scriptures in the Bible, which were given to people under the inspiration of God.

***"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness..."***

**II Timothy 3:16**

*"Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow."*

1 Peter 1:10-11

Our Bible, we call "God's Word," is the written, divine expression or revelation of God to man. Jesus was the embodiment of God's word, the logos.

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."*

John 1:1-5

*"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

John 1:14

**Rhema** - 4487- spoken word of God: Strong's concordance says that rhema is "that which is or has been uttered by the living voice. Our life experience may be one of being challenged with the situations of life and while reading the scripture, one pops out to us, it "speaks" directly to the situation we are dealing with. This is when a Logos Word turns to a Rhema Word.

Another way of using the Rhema is to apply specific scriptures (logos) to the situations we are facing. This is perhaps the most common of way of diffusing temptations. While we may not have a special or emergent Rhema revelation from God regarding a temptation, we will likely have plenty of scriptures that we can speak that apply. It is important to understand that we receive the Word of God in faith until it becomes a personal Rhema to us. This is not brainwashing nor can you be educated to the depth of, lets say philosophy. The only way to get the Rhema is to have the Spirit of God expose it to us.

Just as a small dagger is applied with skill and precision to a vital area of the body, so we must take in the Word of God carefully to know how to use it as an expert, using it tactfully in every situation we face. This particular sword is useful for both defense and for offense. So it is with the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. It is worthwhile but important to ask ourselves how our skill with the spiritual sword of God's Word is? Can you take Scripture and apply it against the enemy? Against an argument? On behalf of a difficult situation?

### **Taking In The Sword**

It is important that we take in the Word of God, how else can we be equipped?

- Put it in your heart: This is a perfect way to kill yourself so that God's Word might live.

- Put it in your mind: This is a great way to minimize the rat's nest in your mind that Satan can hide in it.
  - Study The Scripture
  - Memorize The Scripture
  - Know The Scripture

*"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*

John 14:26

## Take It Out

***"But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot."***

**Jeremiah 20:9**

Jeremiah was saying that if he tried to shut up he couldn't because it had become a fire in his bones. Oh, if we were filled to the point that we could not say anything without saying something from the Word of God. We need the portion of the Word of God that we can't keep it in. It blurts out, it becomes a point of conversation instead of the salt of the conversation!

*"By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's **command**, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."*

Hebrews 11:3

The word "command" is the same word in the Greek, "*rhema*." God spoke a "*rhema*" and what was non-existent became real, what became visible came from the invisible.

Since God created us in his likeness, we too have creative power through the use of our words and speech.

*"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."*

Proverbs 18:21

- James 3 tells us that our words can build people up or tear them down.
- Luke 4 Jesus used the Sword of the Spirit of God's Word in resisting Satan in the wilderness. He responded to the temptations of Satan by quoting scripture.
- The New Testament speaks of God releasing His judgments through the declarations of His people. When Jesus speaks of His *ekklesis*, (church), which is His parliament or governing body on earth, look what He has to say,

***"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven."***

**Matthew 16:19**

Jesus tells us, as a governmental extension of His heavenly throne, that we can declare- based on God's will and Word, what is lawful and unlawful, allowed and disallowed. He has given us the keys to declare what He desires!

Dutch Sheets tells the story of Jay Swallow, a Native American spiritual leader, and a team of intercessors to overthrow a spirit of suicide on the Sioux Standing Rock reservation.

The reservation had been keeping track of the percentage of suicides among the mostly younger generation of the members of the tribe. There had been dozens of suicides and attempted suicides over the past few years. In the last three months there had been six suicides and 31 more attempts. The reservation was still riddled with poverty. A huge sense of hopelessness devoured the younger generation with abundance of alcoholism, drug abuse, child abuse and many other problems.

More and more Federal programs were called on to bring relief, totaling a million and a half dollars. Social programs, prevention programs, health programs, judicial programs, welfare programs and youth programs of every description were major players in trying to bring back social order to the reservation. Instead, the suicides escalated out of control.

Jay Swallow was asked to come and given total authority by the Tribal Chairman, elected officials as well as the Supreme Court Justice. After three days seeking God he accepted the invitation. He was on the radio on the reservations to join him at a three day Summit, December 27-29, 2001.

He and a team of intercessor met with 110 concerned leaders who had no idea of what was going on, but on the third day of the meeting the Lord spoke to Jay Swallow, "Now is the time." He had the shofar to be blown into the heavens, and he began to dismantle the strongman over the Reservation with boldness and a presence of God came into that room and everyone there felt a strong peace of God.

This began a two year and ten month total absence of suicide attempts and actual suicides. The Reservation and its people were free and the homes have not come under that kind of attack again. (Dutch Sheets, *Authority In Prayer*, Bethany House, 2006, pp. 99-102)

#### **Taking Out The Sword of the Spirit:**

- **Use The Sword in Praying (Acts 4:24-31):** A group of believers prayed the word and the result was that the place was shaken, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly
- **Use The Sword in Sharing The Good News Of God (Acts 13:38-43)**
- **Use The Sword in Answering Questions (Acts 13:46-48)**
- **Use The Sword in Worship (Acts 16:25-34)**

**Conclusion:** The enemy will do anything to keep you, the Blade Runner from reaching the hearts of men and women with the Word of God. He will distract you from the purpose that God has for your city and family. You must take this Word, fight with it, be aggressive with it, slaughter the enemy with it. Stop the passive cycle of bondage and limitations- strike the enemy with the weapons of our warfare! Take it up, take it in, take it out and share the goodness of our God! **Our Declaration Today:**

"We covenant together in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as believers in the one true God and make clear our testimony of faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We declare today that the divinely inspired, inerrant Word of God will be proclaimed over our city and region to set precedence and direction for our lives and the lives of those who will come to know our God. (II Peter 1:19-21, II Timothy 3:14-17). Our primary mission is to do our part in Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19)...to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them to observe all that God has commanded.

We will stand together in a unified attack on the enemy of the cross and our souls. We declare peace where he has declared war. We declare war where he has resolved victory. We bind those things that are out of alignment with God's Word and we set free those things that should be freed.

Our declaration is agreeing with what God has already said and in response to what He has already given to us. We will be quick to listen to His voice and respond as humble servants and mighty warriors. Our battle is not with flesh and blood, but they are against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Today we declare that our God reigns and that Jesus, our Lord, sits with Him at His right hand, (Ephesians 1:20). We also humbly, but boldly take our position in the heavenly realms, (Ephesians 2:6-8) through the work of Christ on the cross and the grace of our God. We will declare the manifold wisdom of God to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, (Ephesians 3:10-12), which is a finished work, the eternal purpose and plan of God through Christ Jesus.

Therefore, we may approach God with all freedom and confidence through faith in what Christ has done on our behalf. Let us shout it loud and clear, "Our God Reigns!" Let our heart united in joy as we realize that we will see the fruit of our declaration and our faith in action."