

Ready

“The Sword of the Spirit”

Ephesians 6:10-20 – February 8, 2026

New Year’s Sermon Series

READY		
<i>Ready for Anything with the Armor of God</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Jan 4	The Belt of Truth	Ephesians 6:10-20
Jan 11	The Breastplate of Righteousness	Ephesians 6:10-20
Jan 18	The Gospel of Peace Shoes	Ephesians 6:10-20
Jan 25	The Shield of Faith	Ephesians 6:10-20
Feb 1	The Helmet of Salvation	Ephesians 6:10-20
Feb 8	The Sword of the Spirit	Ephesians 6:10-20

Recap

- We are living in the middle of a spiritual battle that is waging all around us in the unseen spiritual realms (Ephesians 6:12). Satan has a battle plan and tactics that he is using to try to ruin you (John 10:10). Are you aware of his schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11)?

Satan’s Scheme	Scriptures	Armor That Counters That Scheme
Lies & Deception	John 8:44; Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinth 11:14	Belt of Truth
Accusation	Revelation 12:10; Job 1:9-11; Zechariah 3:1	Breastplate of Righteousness
Division	Ephesians 4:26-29; 2 Corinthians 2:10-11	Gospel of Peace Shoes
Doubts & Discouragement	Genesis 3:1-5; John 10:10; 2 Corinth 11:3	Shield of Faith
Fear	1 Peter 5:8; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18	Helmet of Salvation
Temptations	Genesis 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11	Sword of the Spirit

- In order to stand against the devil’s schemes, you must put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20).

The Function of a Roman Soldier’s Sword

- Roman soldiers would carry in their belts a short, dagger-like sword called a *gladius*.
- The *gladius* was used defensively to block or redirect enemy blows.
- But mainly, the *gladius* was used offensively to thrust and stab at the enemy’s vital organs in close-quarters combat.

How to Effectively Use the Sword of the Spirit

1. Use the Sword of the Spirit _____ to stop temptations, doubts, fears, and accusations from injuring you.

- Verse 17 makes it clear that the Sword of the Spirit is God’s Word – the Bible.

- Notice that it is the Spirit’s sword. It is not your sword; rather, it is the sword that the Spirit uses when you read, meditate on, memorize, apply, and obey God’s Word.
- Warren Wiersbe: “The Spirit wrote the Word, and the Spirit wields the Word as we take it by faith and use it.”
- In the power of the Spirit, we can block Satan’s temptations, doubts, fears, and accusations with the Word of God properly received and held up.
- Application #1** – According to Jesus in Mark 4:1-20 (The Parable of the Sower), there are four possible ways for you to receive God’s Word. Which way will you orient yourself?
 - ALONG THE PATH:** Satan can steal the Word from you (v.15) – smart phones are one of his Word-stealing tools today.
 - ON ROCKY GROUND:** Hard times can lead you to not follow the Word (vv.16-17).
 - AMONG THORNS:** The cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things can choke the Word from your life leaving you unfruitful (vv.18-19).
 - GOOD SOIL:** You hear the Word, accept the Word, and bear fruit (v.20).
- In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus models using the Sword of the Spirit to counter Satan’s temptations, doubts, fears, and accusation:

Satan’s Tactic	Jesus Wields Sword
Doubt identity: “If you are the Son of God...” (v.3a)	It is written: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Deut 8:3)
Temptation to short cut: “Command these stones to become bread” (v.3b)	
Doubt identity: “If you are the Son of God...” (v.6a)	It is written: “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test” (Deut 6:16)
Temptation to test God: “Throw yourself down from the top of the temple” (v.6b)	
Misuse God’s Word – Satan quotes two Scriptures out of context (v.6c)	
Temptation to idolatry and pride: “All these kingdoms I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” (vv.8-9)	Be gone, Satan! It is written: “You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve” (Deut 6:13)

- Listen: You cannot fight Satan without Scripture. You can’t say “It is written” if you don’t know what is written in the Bible! You can’t fight with a Word that you don’t know!
- Application #2** – In order to fight this battle I’m in, I’m going to get to know God’s Word by...
 - Reading it myself (The One Year Bible on the YouVersion App).
 - Coming to church every Sunday to study God’s Word. We start the Book of Micah next Sunday.
 - Joining a small group that is studying God’s Word WhatIsGrace.org/spiritualformation
 - Memorizing some strategic Bible passages so that I can have the Sword of the Spirit with me at all times. Recommend 2 apps: “Topical Memory System” and “The Bible Memory App”

- But we must not stop with just knowing God's Word, we must apply and obey God's Word. To not do so is like having a sword unused in its sheath!
- **James 1:22** (NLT) – *But don't just listen to God's Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.*
- Application #3 – Are there any commands of Scripture that I am not obeying thus leaving my sword unsheathed?
 - Acts 2:38 – Repent, receive Christ, be baptized.
 - Romans 12:1-2 – Fully surrender my life to Christ
 - Ephesians 4:32 – Forgive those who have hurt me
 - 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 – Flee all sexual immorality
 - Proverbs 3:9 – Honor the Lord through financial giving
 - Exodus 22:21-22 – Be kind to widows, orphans, immigrants
 - Proverbs 23:2,20-21 – Don't engage in gluttony
 - 1 Peter 5:6-7 – Humble myself before the Lord

2. Use the Sword of the Spirit _____ to storm the gates of hell and rescue souls from the devil's lair.

- Of all the pieces of armor, the sword is the only one whose purpose is offense. God doesn't want us to just be holed up in defense against the devil. God wants us to go on the offense!!!
- **Matthew 16:18** – *On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
- Jesus intends for us to offensively storm the gates of hell and help set prisoners free.
- **Jude 1:23** – *Save others by snatching them out of the fire.*
- **Matthew 12:28-29** – *But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man?*
- C.T. Studd: "Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell."
- "Hell lost another one!" (Song: "I Thank God")
- Application #4 – GF, let's quit thinking just defensively!!! Let's go on the offense and STORM THE GATES OF HELL!!!! And our primary weapon for storming the gates of hell is the Word of God (the Sword of the Spirit). Share God's Word just every chance you get!! Incorporate the Word into your everyday conversations. The Word is where the power is (Isaiah 55:10-11; Hebrews 4:12).
- **Isaiah 55:10-11** – *For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My Word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

- **Hebrews 4:12** – *For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

3. Always use the Sword with _____.

- The armor of God Bible passage does not stop with v.17. There is NOT a period. The passage keeps going describing HOW to wield the Sword of the Spirit (vv.18-20) – namely, with prayer.
- The 4 All's of Ephesians 6:18-20
 - (1) "*all times*" – WHEN – Learn to pray all of the time as a lifestyle.
 - (2) "*all prayer*" – WHAT – Prayer empowers the Word to change lives!!
 - (3) "*all perseverance*" – HOW – Don't give up praying!!! (Luke 18:1) Daniel prayed 21 days (Daniel 10). Isaac prayed for 19 years (Genesis 25:21).
 - (4) "*all the saints*" – WHO – Pray for all of your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray for your leaders.
- Prayer tends to be a more general term including praise, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. Supplication is petition – asking God for specific things; requesting; pleading.
- Application #5 – Seven practical ideas for combining Word and prayer:
 - SOAPS Journal as you read your Bible daily: Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer, Share.
 - When someone shares a need, ask "Can I say a prayer with you right now?" And then pray with them, including praying a Scripture for them.
 - Set an alarm (Jim=4pm) to pause and be with Jesus. Be still. Listen. Pray a Scripture. Resource: "Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Day by Day." Resource: "One Minute Pause" app.
 - When you are tempted, pray a Scripture like 2 Timothy 2:20-22 (lust) or Matthew 6:33 (greed). When you are fearful, pray a Scripture like Philippians 4:13 & 4:19 or Isaiah 43:1-3.
 - When burdened for the salvation of a friend or loved one, pray 2 Peter 3:9 and 1 Timothy 2:4.
 - Text someone a Scripture prayer inserting their name into it: "Lord, You say that You are Lisa's Shepherd...." (Psalm 23).
 - Put on the whole armor of God daily through prayer.

Father, thank You for making Your armor – the very armor that You Yourself wear – available to me through the merits of Jesus Christ. Right now, by faith, I put on Your armor: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the Gospel of peace shoes, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is Your Word. Protect me from the evil one and use me to advance Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name.