

Sword of the Spirit

E.L. Davis

[Back](#)

Composed of the following:

The Christian Warrior	Our Sword	Our Enemy	The Battle Zone
---------------------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------

Prayerfully this study course will help the Christian reader in his or her daily battle with our eternal enemy Satan. In Matthew the 4th chapter we find our Savior locked in battle with the enemy of God and mankind. Satan, who is a deceiver, could not force Jesus to do anything; all he could do was make suggestions but Jesus countered his every move by speaking God's word.

The scriptures say in Ephesians 6:11 "Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Of all the armor that God has given to the believer; the word of God is our sword and we use it by speaking it.

Much of the battle that we face takes place in our minds. Subtle little thoughts enter in as small seeds and if left unchecked will produce their intentions.

An example:

An unclean thought of lust concerning a certain woman or man; has produced many acts of adultery, fornication etc.

We must not be ignorant of Satan's devices and learn to counter his tactics by standing on and using, God's Word.

2Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword...

The Christian Warrior

To come out victorious in our skirmishes with the devil the Christian Warrior must:

Realize who he or she is

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Why is it important that we realize that we are children of God?

Jesus who is our example; resisted Satan from his position as The Son of God. This is a position of victory. In His temptation, Jesus never had to defeat Satan for victory; He was already in a place of victory as God's Son and only had to resist him.

Before we got saved, you and I could have never resisted Satan because as sinners, we were under his power, his dominance. When we accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior, we were taken out of his dominion and delivered from his power over us, SIN.

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

1John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

By faith in Jesus Christ, God has imputed to us His righteousness and in Christ we have been seated in the heavenlies, as children of God we are now in a place of victory, we don't have to defeat Satan, from our place of victory in Christ, we resist him. Hallelujah!!

Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe:

Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

How do we resist him? We resist him by speaking God's word concerning whatever attack we may be under.

We are Warriors!

2Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

1Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

2Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Yes, Christians are to be kind, loving, forgiving but when it comes to the devil we are to be bold as a lion.

Notice the following:

Matthew 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent **take it by force.**

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

If we allow him, Satan will walk all over us.

Some thoughts concerning being a Christian Warrior.

With many Christians, God cannot deal with them as warriors. He must deal with them as babes in Christ. For in that they must constantly be preached to and be reminded of God's salvation, of faith in Jesus and the basics of Christianity; they are not mature enough to be entrusted with the authority and power of Christ.

Hebrews 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13 For every one that useth milk is nskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Realize that there is a spiritual warfare

Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *[places]*.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 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;

The above scriptures tell us that we are engaged in warfare, we have weapons of warfare and that we are to do all that we can to withstand. Many Christians are unaware of this warfare, which results in being oppressed by the enemy. Ignorance does not excuse our involvement, we are in it whether we know it or not.

Our warfare is spiritual, our weapons are spiritual

2Corinthians 10:3-4 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;

Be committed to Christ

We must not be lukewarm

Revelation 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Love not the world

1John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

If we are not truly committed to Christ and are worldly minded then Satan will exploit these areas and set up strongholds in our lives. This requires a daily crucifying of the flesh.

Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Please notice the words of Jesus

John 14:30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

The Lord Jesus was completely sold out to God the Father. **Notice:**

John 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

Be familiar with our sword

Our sword is the word of God and speaking the word of God is the sword in action. It is imperative that a Christian soldier become very familiar with his or her sword, the Word of God. If attacked, what good is a sword if one is unfamiliar with it and doesn't understand how to use it? To the delight of Satan I'm sure.

1Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Have you ever watched a lion (TV etc.) stalk it's prey? A lion will seek out the weak. The animals that are strong, usually escape. You and I must be strong in the Lord. To be strong in the Lord, we must realize what it means to be a Christian and what the Bible says about Christians and that we are to put on the armor of God daily. (Eph.6:10-18)

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

An illustration

In 1968 I joined the USMC and for 13 weeks of boot camp, we learned about our rifle, the M14. We marched with it, we took it apart, we practiced with it, we slept with it, we had classes concerning it and we fired it. It is reasonable to assume that we were very familiar with our weapon. Why do you suppose they wanted us to understand and know our weapon?

Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

[Back to top](#)

Our Sword

Some facts concerning

The Bible was given to us by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, inspiration literally means God breathed. Under the divine influence of God, men spoke and wrote down the Holy Scriptures.

2Peter 1:20-21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (Jeremiah 36:2, Acts 1:16)

[Jesus said:](#)

Matthew 4:4 “Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”

God’s word gives instruction in every area of life, from how to know God, to how to raise our children.

1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Revelation 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword:

Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations:

Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

In the book of Genesis we find God creating a universe by His Word.

His Word is profitable

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

We are to diligently study his written word

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Blessed is the person who abides by God's word

Psalms 1:1-2 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

How to use the sword

Our example by the Lord Jesus

Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, **It is written**, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

- 5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,
- 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee
- 7 Jesus said unto him, **It is written** again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.
- 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;
- 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.
- 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: **for it is written**, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.
- 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Jesus resisted the devil by speaking God's Word. Jesus is our example of how to resist the temptations of Satan.

[Back to top](#)

Our Enemy

Is real

Satan is not some Hollywood cartoon character but is in fact a fallen angel. He gained access to dominion into this world by Adam and Eve yielding to him to sin. One of his many titles is god of this world.

2Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The angels that followed Satan in his rebellion against Almighty God, are organized under the devil's leadership.

The angels that followed Satan have become demonic spirits (demons). Unclean spirits that do Satan's bidding.

Ephesians 6:11-12 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,

against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

The lost

People that are not saved are under Satan's dominion of darkness.

Act 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Satan wants to keep people in darkness concerning the truth about Jesus Christ.

2Corinthians 4:3-4 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The devil's tricks

The devil is a liar and promotes his campaign of lies, half truths, deception and seeks to desensitize people to sin.

He subtly preaches his messages through unregenerate men, working through this world's media. He uses this world's governments, religions, public schools and universities, entertainment fields and a variety of other hosts.

His campaign against Christians is to kill, steal and destroy. He desires to destroy our testimony by tempting us to sin. His aim is to hide the truth of Jesus Christ, from his slaves, the lost.

Satan has infiltrated our pulpits through unsaved men, to preach his word and not God's, for this reason many have had their faith upset and some denominations are in stages of apostasy.

1Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Good News!

Jesus Christ defeated Satan

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Act 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Jesus is the answer

Jesus said of Himself:

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jesus is the ONLY way to God, people who accept Jesus as their Savior are delivered from Satan's grasp.

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

In his effort to deceive people and keep them from the truth the devil works through religion.

2Corinthians 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.
14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.
15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Matthew 7:15 **Beware** of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

[Back to top](#)

The Battle Zone

2Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Much of the battle zone is in the reasoning of our minds. It's through our reasoning that Satan's suggestions come to us.

An example:

A subtle thought comes that suggests that God doesn't love me; what am I going to do with that thought? Is it true? How do I really know? The answer is found in God's word for example: [John 3:16](#).

To effectively fight against this I must use the example of Jesus and speak God's word, by doing this I am submitting to God and resisting the devil. (James 4:7)

Notice Satan's attack on Eve

Genesis 3:4-6 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Instead of standing on God's word to her, Eve listened to the devil and in doing so she allowed her senses to dominate, this led to her sin. (Compare Matthew 4:1-11 with the above scripture.)

1Peter 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

We are to guard our minds, (our thoughts and reasoning process) unclean, ungodly thoughts, fantasies must not be allowed to take root.

Notice what Jesus said:

Matthew 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

For this to take place a person would have to allow his or her imagination to paint a picture on the canvas of their mind.

Matthew 15:19-20 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:
20 These are the things which defile a man:

heart

strong's con. G2588

καρδία

kardia

kar-dee'-ah

Prolonged from a primary *καρ* kar (Latin *cor*, "heart"); the *heart*, that is, (figuratively) the thoughts or feelings (mind); also (by analogy) the *middle*: - (+ broken-) heart (-ed).

Please notice:

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Every Christian must spend time in God's written word. We need its sanctifying cleansing power and effect.

Speaking God's word is using our sword; you and I must know it well enough to do this.