

“Be STRONG In The Sword of the Spirit”
Ephesians 6:17
10/2/22
Series: Be STRONG In The LORD
Message 7

Introduction

- Title Of The Series: “Be STRONG In The LORD”
- Title of the Message is: “Be STRONG In The Sword of the Spirit”

- **Illustration – Everybody LOVES Swords**

- **As a kid EVERY Stick became a sword (Or a gun)**
 - Even as adults...
 - Illustration:
 - When I first got here - Paul had made some homemade swords
 - He showed me how to do it
 - So, Stephen and I went to the store, got all the parts and made the swords
 - **Show Pics**
 - **Show Video**

- **NOW - Today we're Talking about - A Real Sword**

- Not One...
 - We made from a few parts from a hardware store
 - NOT one you get from a toy store
 - NOT even the sword that the Roman soldier would use

- The Sword we're talking about today
 - Is the most Powerful sword to ever exist
 - The Most Powerful Weapon Ever to exist
 - It is the Word of GOD

• **Review - Amidst a Series – BE STRONG In The LORD**

- **1st We talk about...**
 - The Christian life is a
 - BATTLE GROUND
 - NOT a PLAYGROUND!!!
 - We are NOT JUST
 - CHILDREN of God
 - BUT SOLDIERS in the Lord's ARMY!
 - The Church is a...
 - BATTLESHIP
 - NOT a Cruise ship
- **2nd NOW - We REALLY Don't like the Idea that We're in a WAR**
 - 1st We don't want to think of the Christian life as a Battle, War!
 - 2nd We Want Ideal!!!
 - If we are honest with ourselves, we all want the Ideal Easy life

- **3rd Messages So Far!**

- **1st Be STRONG In THE Lord**

- 1st Consider Our Enemy and his Strategy
- 2nd Consider our Source of Power (JESUS)
 - We DON'T fight FOR Victory
 - We Fight FROM Victory
- 3rd Call to STAND!!
 - To Stand Strong IN the Lord and IN the Power of HIS might

- **2nd Be STRONG In The TRUTH**

- The Belt Of Truth Holds everything together
- Truth Holds Everything together
- Critical we are Anchored in His Truth

- **3rd Be STRONG In RIGHTEOUSNESS**

- The Breastplate Protects The Heart
- We Looked At 3 types of Righteousness
 - Self-Righteousness
 - Positional Righteousness
 - Practical Righteousness

- **4th Be STRONG in The Gospel Of PEACE**

- “FOOTWEAR For FIGHTING”
- Special Shoes for Standing Strong – For Fighting

- Shoes Represent
 - The Gospel
 - Peace WITH God
- Shoes Impact our Lives
 - Peace OF God
 - Protects Against Satan's Lies
 - Protects Against False Teaching
 - Protects In Trials
- **5th Be STRONG In The Shield Of FAITH**
 - The Application - What Faith Looks Like
 - Faith Is Like A Shield Because it - Protects us Against Attack
 - Faith Is Like A Shield In That - It's Going To Take Hits
 - Faith Is Like A Shield In That - It Needs To Be Well Handled
 - Faith is like a Shield in that it - Advances!!!
 - The Aim - That We Grow In Faith
 - Remember He is Faithful
 - Do not trust in FEELINGS - BUT trust in the sure Word of God
 - Meditate on God's Promises
 - Trust God's Plans
 - Ask the Lord Jesus to Increase Your Faith
 - Surrender - Trust to God
 - Take Your Thoughts Captive
 - Focus on the Needs of Others
- **6th Be STRONG In The Helmet Of Salvation**
 - What is the Helmet of Salvation?

- The SIMPLE Gospel
- How the Helmet Of Salvation Affects Our Lives
 - Jesus Propitiated Our SINS
 - Protected BY the Holy Spirit - Sealed by the HS
 - Protecting us Against Discouragement
 - Preparing us for the Battle
 - Preparing Us For Ministry (John 13)
- **4th NOTE: There are 2 DIVISIONS - HAVING & TAKING**
 - As we go through the Armor, I want you to note 2 things
 - **1st HAVING**
 - The First 3 Pieces of Armor Paul says...
 - “Having” girded waist with truth
 - By using the word "HAVING" puts this in the past tense
 - So when did this happen?
 - The moment you Received Christ!
 - The first 3 pieces of armor deal with who you are in Christ. Your position
 - **2nd TAKING**
 - The Second 3 pieces of Armor
 - The verb usage is different - Present Tense –
 - “Take Up” the Shield
 - “Take Up” the Helmet
 - “Take Up” the Sword

- These three pieces of armor are aspects of Christ that we must deliberately TAKE UP
- Take up again and again whenever we are under attack.
- **3rd ALL the Armor POINT to Jesus**
 - Jesus is TRUTH! (John 14:6)
 - Jesus is RIGHTEOUSNESS (2 Cor. 5:21)
 - Jesus is PEACE (Eph. 2:14)
 - Jesus is FAITHFULNESS which possible our faith (Gal. 2:20)
 - Jesus is our SALVATION (Luke 2:30)
 - Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1, 14)

• **Now This Morning 2 Powerful Truths About The Sword Of The Spirit**

- The Power Of The Word of God
- The Purpose Of The Sword Of The Spirit

The Power Of The Word of God

• **First: Context**

- **Roman Soldier Sword was Known as GLADIUS**

▪ **Show Pics x 2**

- It was short, only about 2 ft. long from tip to end of the handle
- It was double edge, so could swing both ways

- **The Sword**

- NOTE

- Is the only part of the Armor that is the WEAPON
- The other Pieces of Armor are for defending
- NOW The Sword is used for both Offense and Defense

- The SWORD is Pictured as the Word of God

- It Implies its power
- We have the most powerful weapon of all time we must understand it and use it
- It is the ONLY thing that will change a life.

- **Second: The MOST POWERFUL Weapon EVER**

- Let's consider 4 ways that the Word of God is POWERFUL
- **1st To Create (Genesis 1)**

Genesis 1:1–4 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

3 Then God **said**, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

- The Word for CREATED = Hebrew: Bara (Bar-raw)
 - Means to Create OUT of NOTHING
- Verse 3 God **Said**
 - God Spoke the World into existence
- FYI – we see the TRINITY right Here

- God = Father
- Spirit of God – Hovering = Holy Spirit
- God Said = the Word of God became flesh = SON

○ **2nd To Accomplish His Sovereign Purpose**

Psalm 33:9 (NKJV)

9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

Isaiah 55:10–11 (NKJV)

10 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,

11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

- God Works THROUGH His Word!
 - That’s why we include a lot of scripture in our studies
 - He will do what He says
- Do you believe it?

○ **3rd To Expose Our Sin Problem and to Restore Our Souls**

Hebrews 4:12–13 (NKJV)

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

James 1:21 (NKJV)

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

○ 4th To Save Sinful People – To Make NEW

1 Peter 1:23 (NKJV)

23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

Psalms 51:10 (NKJV)

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

John 15:3 (NKJV)

3 *You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*

○ 5th To Equip Us

▪ 1st Correct & Equip

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Purifies – Equips
- To Serve Him

▪ 2nd Gives us Courage

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

▪ 3rd Prepare us for the Battle Ephesians 6

- As we have been talking about

▪ 4th Light for our Feet

Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

- **5th Anchor for our souls**

Hebrews 6:19–20 (NKJV)

19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Purpose Of The Sword Of The Spirit

- **First: Context**

- **1st The Word used for the “WORD of GOD”**

- The word he uses here for the Word is interesting
- There are 2 GREEK words for WORD
- **1st “Logos”**
 - Which is the most common word used to describe the Bible
 - Logos refers to the total utterance of God
 - The complete revelation of what God said
 - Is the general revelation – it is the whole of what God said
 - General knowledge Scripture
 - It was symbolized for us by the Belt of Truth
- **2nd Rhema**
 - The Greek word Rhema...

- Used far less than Logos
- Rhema Means
 - It refers to specific spoken statements from God's Word
 - Not just holding my Bible up and saying –
 - Satan I rebuke in the name of the truth
 - IT IS Specific
 - To the particular attack that Satan is bringing against us
 - Not General Knowledge
 - BUT knowledge of the Word of God in the Moment
- Quick - Illustrated
 - 1st Feeling attacked

Isaiah 54:17 (NKJV)

17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD.

- 2nd Not at Peace

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)

3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

- 3rd Worried How the Trial your in – will end

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

- It is speaking specific Words of Truth
 - That has specific application to the immediate situation you're in

- **Second: Sword Of The Spirit is used 2 ways**

- **1st Offensively**

- Here's just 3 ways we can use the Word of God as a Offensive Weapon
- **1st Expose Deeds of Darkness**

Ephesians 5:11 (NKJV)

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

- There are people all around
 - Who are LOST and in the DARK
 - They are doing EVIL
- It is GOOD that we LOVINGLY **Bring Light Into the Picture**
 - David says in Psalm 119:105, and 130

Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Psalm 119:130 (NKJV)

130 The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

- Illustration

- At Work and someone says Abortion is good
- Critical that this is done in LOVE
- TRUTH AND LOVE
- You can say; Did you know?

Psalm 139:13–14 (NKJV)

13 *For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.*

14 *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.*

- **2nd Refute Worldly Philosophies and False Religions**

- Many people participate in wrong
 - Because they believe in wrong ideas and teachings

Ephesians 4:17–20 (NKJV)

17 *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,*

18 *having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;*

19 *who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

20 *But you have not so learned Christ,*

- We need to Meekly Educate People – DON'T Argue
- 1st The TRUTH challenges the **false beliefs of the culture around him**
 - We need to be able to refute the demonic-inspired beliefs that prevail in our culture today
 - We need to contest the worldly philosophies that shape our society
 - Evolution –

- Bible says God Created
- Materialism –
 - All things are going to burn – Put your treasure where rust and moth can't destroy
- Narcissism
 - Seek God and others first
- Moral Relativism
 - God has SAFE commandments
- 2nd The TRUTH Expose false religions that entrap the souls of mankind
 - Buddhism
 - Hinduism
 - Islam
 - False Teaching in the Church

2 Timothy 3:13 (NKJV)

13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

- Sadly - Many Christians need to be corrected
- One Pastor said; “Sadly the CHURCH has become the Mission Field
- Timothy was given a CHARGE from God to Deal with FAsle Teaching in the church (1 Timothy)

- We need to correct those within Christianity who have been entrapped by false doctrine
- A good portion of the NT is correcting CHRISTIANS
 - From moral behaviors
 - Waring about False Teaching
 - As we read the epistles of Apostles, they are frequently refuting false teachings that had crept into the Church
- **3rd Preach the Gospel of Salvation**
 - The MOST IMPORTANT
 - PREACH THE GOSPEL
- **2nd Defensively**
 - **Jesus gave us a great example**
 - Wilderness being tempted
 - Jesus spoke with Precision concerning each attack of the enemy
 - He defended and also used it as an offensive weapon
 - **Turn to Matthew 4**
 - Context:

Matthew 4:1 (NKJV)

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

- After His baptism – validation from Father –

- A high point – then comes attack
- God set this up – so Jesus could be our complete High Priest
- Tempted in all ways YET did NOT sin
- He gave our example on how to fight temptation

- **First Temptation**

Matthew 4:2 (NKJV)

2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

- Satan is going to attack Jesus in an area that had to do with his flesh – hunger
- Satan will always attack where he sees weakness

Matthew 4:3 (NKJV)

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

- Now what Satan doing here?
 - Questioning the Sonship of Jesus –
 - If you’re really God's Son...
 - Questioning - the FATHER’S PROVISION
 - But here Satan is challenging the very words God had spoken saying: If you are really God's Son - why still hungry?
- Quick Lesson

- Satan does the same thing in your life - my life –
 - Says: If you are a child of God where's Father's provision?
 - Why are bills piling up?
 - Why lacking? Maybe you should take a second job?
 - Why are you sick?
- Jesus' Answered

Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)

4 But He answered and said, *"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'*"

- He goes on the offensive – quoting Deuteronomy
- Pleasing God is more important and more satisfying than pleasing my flesh!
- There is something more important than
 - The material physical realm
 - The physical food is the Spiritual food
- Quick Lesson
 - Remember that next time the enemy is tempting you to indulge your flesh
 - There is something way more satisfying than indulging my flesh, Intimacy with God...receiving from God

- **Second Temptation:**

- Changes Tactic

Matthew 4:5–6 (NKJV)

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,

6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

- This time Satan is challenging Jesus to put the Father’s PROTECTION to the test
- If you are really God’s son – prove it – through yourself off – it is written

- Jesus’ Answer

Matthew 4:7 (NKJV)

7 Jesus said to him, “*It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’ ”*

- Jesus knew to test God is to Doubt God
- To doubt God is not to trust Him, and not to trust Him is sin
- That, of course, is what Satan wanted Jesus to do
- To induce Jesus to sin, if that were possible, would shatter His perfect holiness, and therefore shatter His divinity and man’s hope of salvation
- Note again –
 - A Specific word – to the Specific temptation

- **Third Temptation:**

Matthew 4:8–9 (NKJV)

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

- What is going on here?
 - Questioning the FATHER’S PROMISE Father promised all things to the Son!
 - Satan was saying the world is mine to give away –
 - It's all yours if you bow down and worship me!
 - Note Jesus doesn't refute this - true - God gave world to man - forfeited to Satan - Jesus redeem back!
 - Satan was SAYING –
 - Don't have to go to cross! Short cut!
- Jesus’ Answer

Matthew 4:10 (NKJV)

10 Then Jesus said to him, “*Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’*”

- There is only ONE God worth worshipping – and serving!
- Satan Left

Matthew 4:11 (NKJV)

11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Closing

- **We must know His Word and use His Word**

- **1st When Discouragement Hits**

Psalm 46:1–3 (NKJV)

- 1** God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;
3 Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah

Psalm 55:22 (NKJV)

- 22** Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

- **2nd When Fear hits**

Romans 8:15 (NKJV)

- 15** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

Luke 12:32 (NKJV)

- 32** “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

- **3rd When The Need for Patience**

Psalm 27:14 (NKJV)

- 14** Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

Isaiah 40:29–31 (NKJV)

- 29** He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.
30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,
31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

○ **4th When temptation comes our way...**

- A temptation to be greedy
- A temptation to indulge in sexual immorality
- A temptation to be selfish
- A temptation to wallow in self-pity
- A temptation to gossip
- A temptation to cheat
- A temptation to complain
- A temptation to worry about matters
- A temptation to get high or to get drunk
- A temptation to be envious or jealous
- A temptation to speak a lie
- Or whatever else the temptation may be...
- We need to be able to RESIST the temptation with a Scripture
 - Using the Word – speaking Rhema

• **Final Thoughts**

- Satan is defeated... Jesus was Victorious
- We must remember – not fighting FOR victory but FROM a position of Victory

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)

- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.*