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THE ARMOR
OF GOD

Lesson 7—
Sword of
the Spirit

Review from past lessons:

1. There is a battle between good and evil, and I am the prize
2. What are Satan's 2 goals? (keep people out of heaven & keep people from glorifying God)
3. So, what can Satan do to the Christian? (tempt you from the outside)
4. What pieces of armor have we learned about so far? (belt/truth-mind; breastplate/righteousness-actions; sandals/gospel-peace in Christ; shield-faith; helmet-salvation)

I. What Was the Roman Soldier's Sword Like?

- A. They would use a shorter sword as they were prepared for close, hand-to-hand combat
- B. It was very sharp on both sides making it powerful to cut through things quickly

II. How Does This Apply to Us?

- A. We don't have the power to defeat Satan, but God's Word does
 1. Jesus used scripture when tempted
 2. only through God's Word that demons were cast out & other healings/miracles occurred
 3. therefore, we must READ and MEMORIZE scripture to battle and defeat Satan
- B. Use it on the offensive to defeat Satan's TEMPTATIONS
 1. use it while "girding up your LOINS (mind)"
*we must fill our minds with scripture (**Philippians 4:8**)
 2. use it while standing with the "breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS"
*we must use it to see what a righteous life looks like in scripture
 3. use it while holding ground with the "sandals of the gospel of PEACE"
*we must know our relationship with Christ through what scripture teaches
 4. use it while pushing forward with the "shield of FAITH"
*we must look at scripture to see the great examples of faith (**Hebrews 11**)

Quiz: What are verses that you can use to battle against specific issues?

*struggling with lust; not feeling loved; feeling ugly; prayer; "works" salvation; parent troubles

C. Use it on the offensive to defeat Satan by SPREADING IT

1. use it with the "helmet of salvation" as we proclaim to others God's plan of salvation
2. only the Word of God can CHANGE your lost and hurting friends (**Romans 10:13-15**)
*As we discussed, your friends are seeking to fill an empty void in their hearts and YOU are given the awesome privilege to share the good news with them!

III. What If I Don't Read It (and I'm a Christian)

*obviously, we have no power/weapon to fight the battles we just mentioned

A. God cannot SPEAK to us or GUIDE us (**Psalm 1:1-3**)

1. never hear God's direction for your life

*do you not believe that the God of the universe wants a "relationship" with you?

2. never MATURE in your faith and become who God created you to be (**1 Peter 2:2**)

B. We are led to believe FALSE things (**Ephesians 4:14**)

1. we are led to believe wrong spiritual things (things about God)

2. we are led to do wrong things morally (**Psalm 119:9-11**)

*Remember the times when Bible wasn't in common language. It led to false beliefs. When they did have the Bible, they faithfully read it and was willing to die for it.

*King Josiah (II Chronicles 34)- Josiah had never heard the words of God's law before this time. He asked his servant to read aloud from the book, and Shaphan read about God's promise to bless the people if they should serve him faithfully. Then he continued to read, and Josiah heard about God's promise to punish the people if they should forsake him and turn to worship idols. Josiah was alarmed. He knew the people had disobeyed God's law, and he feared the awful punishments, which God promised to send upon them. He tore his clothes and wept bitter tears.

Joshua 1:8- This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to recite it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.

Ask Yourself: How do I treat the words of the God who loves me and gave up His Son for me?

Ask Yourself: What is God currently teaching me and what will I do about it?

Take it Home: Meditate over Psalm 119. Highlight key verses. Here are Jason's personal favorites that have challenged/helped him the most: 1-2, 5-6, 9, 11, 18, 27, 37, 72, 98-100, 105.



VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart.