

STAND FIRM

A STUDY OF THE ARMOR OF GOD



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MISSION

7

MISSION 7: SWORD OF THE SPIRIT (EPHESIANS 6:17)

The Uniform: Sword of the Spirit

Now that you have been issued the Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, Sandals of the Good News of Peace, Shield of Faith and Helmet of Salvation, it is time to take up the Sword of the Spirit! The sword hanging from the Roman Soldier's belt would have been the short, straight Gladius Sword. The blade had two sharp edges and a point. Once the soldier stepped into close, hand-to-hand combat, he would lead with his shield and thrust with his sword.

As we read about the Armor of God in Ephesians chapter 6, we are told that the Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. That is a little confusing, though, isn't it? We have already talked about the Belt of Truth and how God's Word is truth. What is the difference? Well, when we talk about the Belt of Truth, we are talking about the Bible as a whole. With the Sword of the Spirit, it is all about "individual Scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in the time of need."¹

Combat Intelligence: The Enemy

Through this study, we have seen that the devil is a liar; He is the father of lies. What the devil says may sound good, it may even have Scripture mixed in, but you can be sure he is twisting it for his own purpose. God, on the other hand, is truth. What he tells us is for our good; it is for our protection.

So, if the Word of God, our sword, is to be used to do battle against the lies of Satan, it has to be in our minds so that we can remember it in a time of need.

We have also seen that Satan's defeat is sure. 1 Corinthians 15:25 (ICB) says, "Then the end will come. Christ will destroy all rulers, authorities, and powers. And he will give the kingdom to God the Father. That is great news, but until then, we are still in a battle and need to stand firm.

OBJECTIVES:

- To be reminded who the enemy is
- To be prepared to stand firm
- To continue issuing equipment
- To be sure of enlistment

FROM THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL:

(Memory Verse)

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

The Battle Plan: Be Prepared to Stand Firm

Even though the sword is a weapon of offense, our memory verse makes it clear how God's Word is like a sword, at war against the sin in our own lives. "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." (Hebrews 4:12NLT) This could happen as you are studying your Instruction Manual, the Word of God, or as you are listening to it being taught.

As we read in James, "Surrender to God! Resist the devil, and he will run from you." (4:7 CEV) This is war! You can't just sit around and expect to win. God's Word, your sword is very important. Did you know that the Word of God lasts forever? (Isaiah 40:8)

As important as it is to let the Word of God speak to you, it is also very important to memorize God's Word, because it keeps us from sin (Psalm 119:11) and it is one of the two weapons God has given us to fight with. If the Sword of the Spirit is about using truths from Scripture or individual verses against the lies of the devil, you need to memorize the Word of God to be ready for battle.

The Swearing-In: Have you enlisted?

Do you know that it is the Spirit of God who helps us understand Scripture and who brings it to mind when we need it? The Spirit of God is given to those who come to God for salvation, believing that He loved us so much that He gave His one and only Son, Jesus Christ. Anyone who puts their trust in him will receive the Holy Spirit and can have everlasting life.

Is that a decision you have made? If not, let's talk.

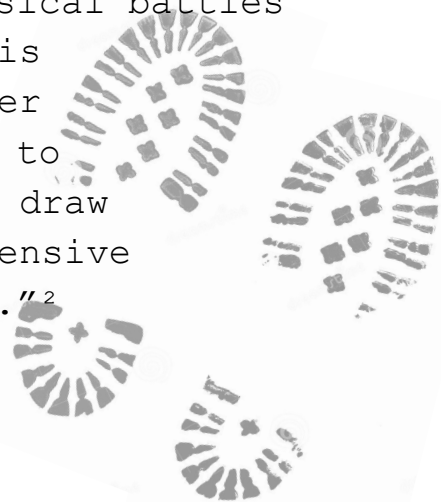
¹ Arthur, Kay. Lord, Is It Warfare? Teach Me to Stand. 1991. Waterbrook Press. p. 288.

² Ibid. p. 180.

ACTIVITIES



- Make swords. Be sure they include the memory verse and/or all the books of the Bible in your decoration.
- Continue memorizing Ephesians 6:10-20 (Spiritual Basic Training). Do a verse or phrase at a time and make up hand motions that will help your students remember.
- Run Relay Races to enforce the idea of Basic Training.
- Learn and sing "The Battle Belongs to the Lord" and "I'm In the Lord's Army," "Be Bold," and "Trust and Obey."
- Review the Plan of Salvation. Make bookmarks, bracelets, crosses, wordless books or whatever will make the plan of salvation clear to your students.
- Read Psalm 34 or ask for favorite Bible verses. Talk about how these verses can be used in times of spiritual battle.
- **Extra Training:** Practice being skilled at the use of your sword, the Word of God! Have Sword Drills where you compete to find books of the Bible and Bible verses.
- **Extra Training:** Look up the following verses. What do you find out about the Word of God? Psalm 119:9, 11, 28, 37, 89, 101, and 105.
- **Extra Training:** We have been focusing on physical battles that correspond with each piece of armor. This week we will look at a spiritual one. "In order to win the ruler-ship of the earth, Jesus had to submit to God. He had to resist the devil and draw near to God...Jesus used the one and only offensive weapon He needed—the sword of the Word of God."² Read and discuss Luke 4:1-13. How did Jesus use the Word of God as a sword?





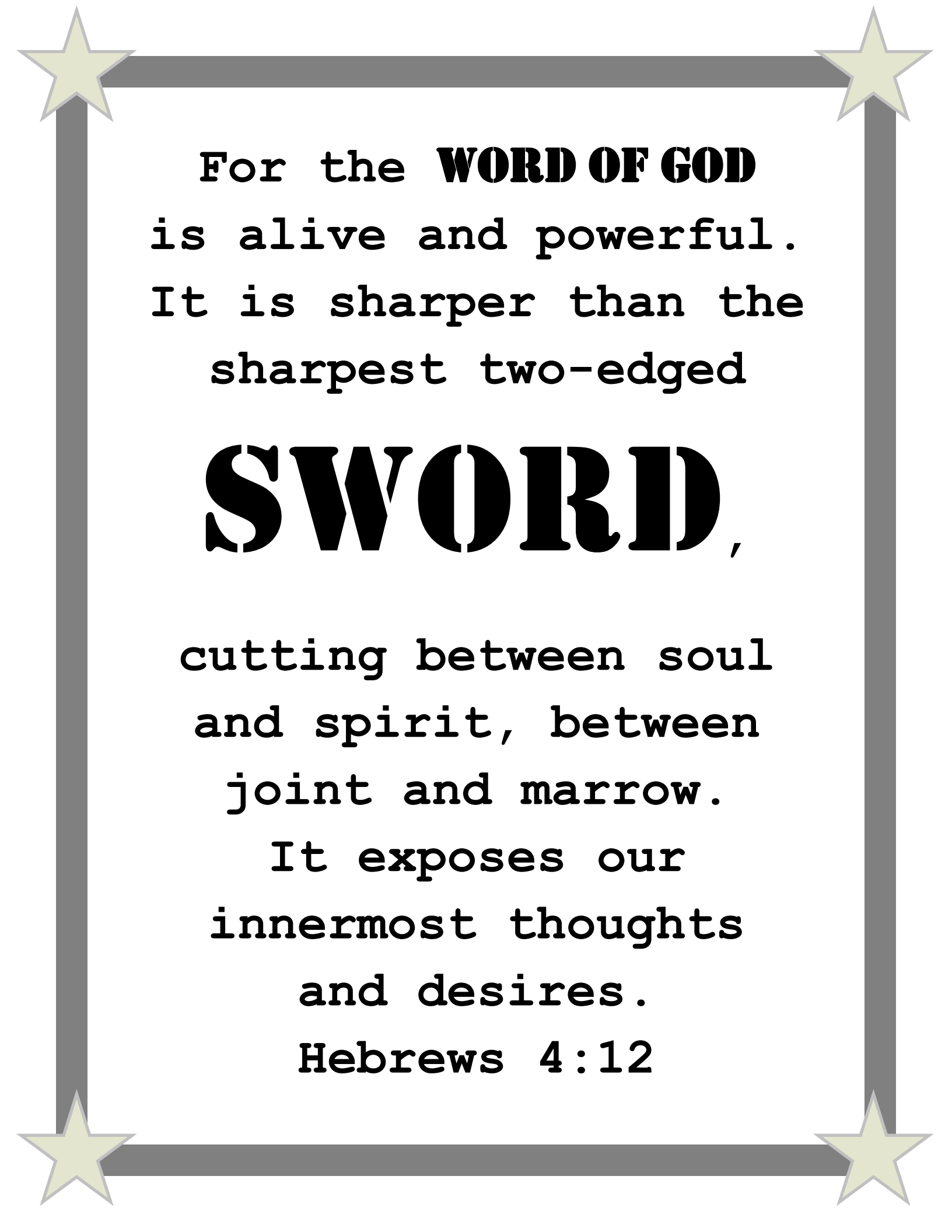
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WORD SEARCH



r r e g o d s c d n t r o l m
t s t r e e g a e s i t c a i
r w e d s t o p g h v o a l s
w o r d o f g o d t n f e s w
s r n k e r l i e u h f r i o
t d a m m n b v e r s e s n r
g o l t l a r e l t w n i n d
o f r e e l r t b d b s s o a
d s e f h l o h u i a i w m g
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f i g h t b a c k e d e o u a
e t h s e i l t s n i a g a l
o r i g h t e s u s n e g s f

Sword of Spirit

Word of God

double-edged

verses

truths

offensive

fight back

against lies

eternal

WORD SEARCH

Answers

r r e g o d s c d n t r o l m
t s t r e e g a e s i t c a i
r w e d s t o p g h v o a l s
w o r d o f g o d t n f e s w
s r n k e r l i e u h f r i o
t d a m m n b v e r s e s n r
g o l t l a r e l t w n i n d
o f r e e l r t b d b s s o a
d s e f h l o h u i a i w m g
n p b r i i w o o e d v e o n
y i a c c f s u d n o e s r i
n r t s t e d g y c b o d e m
f i g h t b a c k e d e o u a
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