

WWWN

WE WRESTLE NOT

SERIES DEVOTIONAL
SWORD OF THE SPIRIT | JULY 26, 2020

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

Discussion Starter #1: What is your favorite thing about the Bible?

Key Passage: “...take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Eph.6:17b)

TEACHING POINT

#1

The Bible—the sword of the Spirit—has both offensive and defensive purposes.

Swords were used to for self-defense and to attack the enemy. In both cases it was vital for a soldier to get comprehensive training on the proper use of the sword to get maximum use of it. All Christian soldiers need the same training to know how to properly handle the sword of the Spirit, “*which is the word of God*” (v.17). The sword Paul refers to here is the Holy Scriptures. Since every Christian fights on the spiritual battlefield against evil forces of this world, we need to know how to handle the Word properly. Only then will it be an effective defense against evil and an offensive weapon we use to “*demolish strongholds*” of error and falsehood (2 Cor.10:4–5).

God also refers to His Word as a sword in 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.*” Notice the Word is described as “living” and “active” and “sharper than a double-edged sword.” The Roman sword was commonly made with double edges so it would be easier to penetrate and also to cut in every way. The idea is that the Word of God penetrates the heart piercing and laying open the motives and feelings of the one it touches.

The purpose of the sword of the Spirit—the Bible—is to make us strong and able to withstand the evil onslaughts of Satan, our enemy: “I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11). The Holy Spirit uses the power of the Word to save souls and then to give them spiritual strength to be mature soldiers for the Lord so they can fight against the enemy victoriously. The more we know and understand the Word of God, the more useful we will be in doing God’s will and in standing against the enemy of our souls.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- Why is the Bible able to reach a person’s heart in ways that nothing else can?
- What does Hebrews 4:12 mean when it says the Bible is ‘living and active’?
- In what ways is the Bible an offensive weapon for the Christian?
- In what ways is the Bible a defensive weapon for the Christian?

TEACHING POINT

#2

Even though the Bible was completed about 1900 years ago, it is still a relevant piece of the Christian soldier's spiritual armor today.

The Old Testament was completed about 3,000 years ago, and the New Testament was completed about 2,000 years ago. The customs, traditions, and overall culture of the people in the Bible days were nothing like ours in the 21st century America today. So, can the teachings of the Bible, an ancient book, be relevant to our lives today? The answer is yes for at least three reasons:

1. The Bible tells us the truth about God who is always relevant to His creation.

Through the Bible, God reveals to us truth that we could not otherwise have about Himself, life, and eternity, so the Bible is always relevant to human beings no matter what cultural setting, time in history, or situation a person may live. 2 Tim.3:16-17 says, *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*

2. Truth transcends history, cultures, customs, language, and time.

Whatever is true at one time and in one place and for one person is true at all times and in all places and for all people. Truth is not invented by humans; rather it is discovered or revealed. The truth God reveals through the Bible is relevant to each person today and applicable to every situation in life. Psalm 19:7-11 says, *"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward."*

3. The Bible's central message of salvation is universally and perpetually applicable to humanity. God's Word will never be outdated, superseded, or improved upon. Cultures change, laws change, generations come and go, but the Word of God is as relevant today as it was when it was first written.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- How would you answer a skeptic who says, "The Bible is not relevant for modern 21st century living?"
- Why is the Bible's most important message—redemption—universally and perpetually applicable to humanity?
- What are some benefits of the Bible to a nonbeliever?

