

## Spiritual Warfare: The Furnishing for Spiritual Warfare - 4

**Introduction:** We move on now to the second section in Ephesians chapter six, which deals with the helmet of Salvation (**v17**), the Sword of the Spirit (**v17**) along with the final instructions of prayer (**v18**), supplication in the Spirit (**v18**), and utterance of the Gospel (**v19**).

What we are dealing with here is not just the Gospel message but **an assurance of that message and all that pertains to Salvation**. When we talk about the helmet of Salvation, we are dealing with that which protects our head.

With our heads, we think. With our heads, we see. With our heads, we speak. In this head of ours is where doubt can arise and be fought over. Doubt that wells up opposed to our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word. The Bible couples this helmet with the Sword of the Spirit.

The conjunctive word “and” is classified as “Copulative conjunction” or “additive conjunction,” which means it relates strongly together to the Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit.

We know we are not dealing with being saved in this passage because these instructions are given to Christians. The Bible shows us a reference to this in **I Thessalonians 5:8**, where it speaks to this helmet as being the hope of Salvation.

To understand this, **we reckon on three different aspects of Salvation**.

We understand that when we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior at that moment, we become possessors of eternal life.

The Bible says in **II Corinthians 5:17**, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, **he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

When we speak of Salvation to someone, we often refer to this. We refer to that point in time when God opened our eyes and drew Us unto Himself, and we, by faith, trusted in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross of Calvary.

But then there is a second aspect of Salvation that we need to understand: God is **saving us presently from the power of sin**.

He is changing us from the inside out. We would use the terminology **Sanctification**. This speaks to our separation from the World and to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God are effectual in this process.

The Bible says, *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”* **John 17:17**

Eerdmans Bible Dictionary explains it this way, *“In Christian theology, sanctification is usually understood as an act or process subsequent to salvation which renders the believer holy in fact.”*

Timothy P. Jenney, “Sanctify, Sanctification,” ed. David Noel Freedman, Allen C. Myers, and Astrid B. Beck, Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 2000), 1165.

It is the idea that we are, by regeneration, children of God, and the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God is affecting the whole man bringing Him into conformity to the Lord Jesus Christ. “We are works in progress.”

The last aspect of Salvation **will take place in the future.**

This is our future estate; we will be saved **from the presence of sin.** We will receive a new body and be eternally forever with him in a glorified state.

We might say it this way.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ **has saved me** from the **penalty of sin.**

We say and rejoice to say, “I have been saved.”

2. The Lord Jesus Christ **is saving me** from the **power of sin.** We can yield to the operation of the Holy Ghost in us. We can reckon ourselves to be dead to sin and alive in Christ. But there is a present struggle in our lives from day to day.

3. Then we understand that the Lord Jesus Christ **will save me** from the **presence of sin.**

This aspect, I believe, is what Paul is conveying here by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit concerning the Helmet of Salvation (**v17**).

The reckoning of the **future estate of the Christian.**

**I Corinthians 15:51-57** *“51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but **we shall** all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So **when** this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which **giveth us** the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

As we look at this life, we are tempted to lose sight of this hope. We do not reckon on the long view. And this attack strikes our minds.

**I Thessalonians 5:8-10** “8 *But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.*”

Our hope has to do with **not that which is present** but rather **that which is future**. The Bible describes this for us in **Romans chapter 8**, that excellent victory chapter for the Christian.

Beginning in **verse 22**, we find these words, “*For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*”

To dawn this helmet of Salvation, we need not go any farther than turn to the pages of Scripture and be renewed in our minds. Our most substantial and excellent proof of the hope of Salvation lies in our Savior and Lord, the Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 12:1-3** “*1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*”

The writer of Hebrews tells us that we are in a **long race**. This battle of future hope takes place in the midst of the race. We put on the helmet of Salvation by reckoning on the Word of God.

**I Corinthians 15: 20-23** tells us, “*But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*”

That great passage of comfort found in **John chapter 14** is central to this.

The Bible says, *“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.”*

This then connects us with this last piece of armor listed in this section before we get to the Soldier’s practical actions, and that is the **Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.**

### **The Word of God is to be used.**

When we consider this item a sword, it is a weapon used for offense and defense. A sword is of no use put away. I am reminded of Peter taking a sword and taking off the ear of Malchus. The ear would not have been taken off if Peter had not drawn the sword. The Spirit of God is the Author of the Word of God, and therefore God’s Word is powerful.

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

What makes God’s Word so powerful? The answer is God Himself.  
**His Word does not return void.**

The Bible says in **Isaiah 55:11** concerning God’s Word, *“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.**”*

As we look at ourselves in the mirror, we understand God’s Word is powerful. When we examine what God has done in our lives by saving us, we understand God’s Word is powerful. How powerful is God’s Word? I would say, beyond our ability to reckon.

Matthew Henry, in his commentary, spoke very specifically about the use of the Sword of the Spirit in the life of the Christian. *“To the Christian armed for defense in battle, the apostle recommends **only one weapon of attack**; but it is enough, the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. It subdues and mortifies evil desires and blasphemous thoughts as they rise within, and answers unbelief and error as they assault from without. **A single text, well understood and rightly applied, at once destroys a temptation or an objection and subdues the most formidable adversary.**”*

Matthew Henry and Thomas Scott, *Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary* (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, 1997), Eph 6:10.

Is there a Biblical example of this? Of course, in **Matthew 4**, we see the Lord Jesus Christ using the Sword of the Spirit.

In this account, we see the Lord using the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

**Matthew 4:1-3** *“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...”*

We notice that the Bible tells us the Tempter came to Him. And we see the warfare that takes place. Temptations are presented to the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is interesting and instructive for you and me to see that the Lord did not use anything but the Word of God to counter these Temptations.

The Bible tells us in **verse 4** that the Lord said, *“It is written...”* and cited **Deuteronomy 8:3**

Albert Barnes noted four things concerning this battle before the Lord.

1. Satan often takes advantage of our circumstances.
2. Satan attempts to fill us with pride and self-conceit when we have been favored. (This following the baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ.)
3. Satan tempts with things that seem to be plausible and good. (There is a false cloak of righteousness)
4. The Battle is met “with the plain and positive declaration of Scripture.”

We see again the very same pattern in **verse 7**. The Bible says, *“Jesus said unto him, **It is written again...**”* This quotation is from **Deuteronomy 6:16**. *“16 **Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.**”*

In **verse 10** again, we see in the first part of the Lord’s response His use of the Word of God. *“Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written...”* We find this truth from this passage: not only is a sword to be used, but the Word of God must be used.

### **The Word of God Must Be Used**

We must know that we cannot fight the good fight of faith without the Word of God. This book that we hold, the Word of God, is the most essential book in the entire world. Nothing else we could read, watch or hear could come close to how important the Word of God is. We may study other works written by a man to discover some level of knowledge. But nothing else that has ever been or will be written that comes close to power and importance to the child of God than the Word of God. **Without God’s Holy Word, we have no offensive weapon.**

The Bible says, *“Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God...”*  
Our success or failure in spiritual warfare will be determined by whether we spend time with Him and His Word. Our success or failure in spiritual warfare will be determined by our yielding to Him and His Word.

In the end, we are cutting through the lies of the Devil and by Him all the falsehood in this world. We are combating the desires of the Old man. We are alive in Christ and yielded to His Spirit.

### **The Word of God Must Be Known**

**Jesus taught His disciples what they needed to know.** He instructed them. He disciplined them. The disciples needed to know the Sword of the Spirit rightly. In the end, we might say it this way. God understood that **His Word must be known and abide in those that are His.**

*In Matthew 28:18-20, “18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

Don't just teach them the Word of God; teach them to **observe (live) the Word of God.**

We often use the word **obedience**, which is a correct Bible term. The Bible says, *“Children, **obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.**”* **Ephesians 6:1**

Obedience, in this case, has to do with **authority**. Children are to obey their Parents in the Lord, for this is right.

But there is a slight nuance comparing the word **obedience** versus the words **observance** or the word **keep, keeping**. I found it interesting that the Lord did not use the Word “obey” in **Matthew 28**. In **Matthew 28**, we see the word **observe**. The Greek word is the word τηρέω (tereo). In the Septuagint, it is found in several places, but one such place, for example, is **Proverbs 3:1**.

**Proverbs 3:1-2** *“My son, forget not my law; But let thine heart **keep** [τηρέω] **my commandments:** 2 For length of days, and long life, And peace, shall they add to thee.”*



The difference in the Christian life is that we keep what is in our hearts. We are to **observe** the Lord's commands. We are to **keep** His commandments.

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

*"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will **keep** my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."* **John 14:23**

*"If ye **keep** my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."* **John 15:10**

*"Because thou hast **kept** the word of my patience, I also will **keep** thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."* **Revelation 3:10**

And this is the idea that we must know the Word of God. We know the Word of God, and **we desire to observe** the Word of God.

Remember concerning the Sword of the Spirit:

**The Word of God Is To Be Used**

**The Word of God Must Be Used**

**The Word of God Must Be Known**

**Colossian 3:16-17** *"16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all **wisdom**; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."*