

# USE YOUR SWORD

*“above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”*

Ephesians 6:16-17 (NKJV)

*Charles E Sivley*



## THE POWER SOURCE OF THE UNIVERSE LIES IN GOD'S WORD

*“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption”. Isn't that tremendous? We are sealed with the Holy Spirit of God! “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.” Ephesians 4:29-5:2 (NKJV)*

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he continues to write about the things God wants us to stop doing as well. What God's Word is really talking to us about today is being conformed into His image, His likeness. God wants to establish His kingdom, and *“...the kingdom of God is within you.”* Luke 17:21 (NKJV) It is within your heart, and your midst. Kingdom is KING-meaning royal, DOM-meaning dominion. ROYAL DOMINION!

Jesus said, *“But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”* Matthew 12:28 (NKJV)

In religion is it all carnality, or “in the sweet by and by”. However, in a true relationship with God everything He wants for us is spiritual, and it is available here and it is now. It's a NOW thing! *“...and of His kingdom there will be no end.”* Luke 1:33 (NKJV) That is the real difference between “religion” and “spirituality”. It is about getting ahold of the things of God.

## **THE NEW CREATION IS REAL**

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) We are all a new creation in Christ Jesus. It is a finished work, and everything is finished, all the way from Genesis to Revelation. That is why Christ came, the second Adam, to regain everything that was lost. EVERYTHING!

*“And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.” 1 Corinthians 15:45 (NKJV)*

*“In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]”. Ephesians 6:10 (AMPC) God desires for us to have all the power and strength He has. Jesus said, “... All authority has been given unto Me in heaven and on earth...” Matthew 28:18 (NKJV) Then the Word of God also says, we are heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ. (Romans 8:17) Therefore, by renewing our mind through the Word of God, we come into this new creation where old things are passed away and behold all things have become new. It is NOW that we are moving into another kingdom, another dimension! Ultimately what God wants, is each and every person connected into Him.*

*“The secret [of the sweet, satisfying companionship] of the Lord have they who fear (revere and worship) Him, and He will show them His covenant and reveal to them its [deep, inner] meaning.” Psalms 25:14 (AMPC) A sweet satisfying companionship with God! We all need that! The Word of God further says, “...this is eternal life: [it means] to know (to perceive, recognize, become acquainted with, and understand) You, the only true and real God, and [likewise] to know Him, Jesus [as the] Christ (the Anointed One, the Messiah), Whom You have sent.” John 17:3 (AMPC) The greatest thing we will ever experience in life is to KNOW Him.*

### **YOU HAVE AN ENEMY! YOUR ENEMY IS THE DEVIL!**

*“Put on God’s whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.” Ephesians 6:11 (AMPC)*

*“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” James 4:7-8 (NKJV) See it is a simple mathematical formula here, SUBMITTING TO GOD + RESISTING THE DEVIL= A FLEEING DEVIL! “Therefore gird up the loins of*

*your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*” 1 Peter 1:13 (NKJV)

*“that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,”* 2 Peter 3:2 (NKJV) If our minds are full the Word of God, then we are not easily persuaded by the enemy’s lies.

*“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.”* Ephesians 4:26-27 (NKJV)

*“For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.”* James 3:16 (KJV) We must realize when this happens (envying and strife) that we are moving into the devil’s kingdom, and out of God’s kingdom. We are coming into union with the devil more than with God. After all, we are products of our own environments.

*“For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.”* Ephesians 6:12 (AMPC) We must see that in our relationship with God, we are wrestling. The word *wrestle* here in the Greek is *palé* (Strong’s #3823) and means wrestling, a wrestling bout; hence: a struggle, fight, conflict, contest.

Wrestling takes every bit of energy we have; spiritually and oftentimes physically! We are wrestling with the devil, and he does not want us to ever be conformed into the image of God’s Son. (Romans 8:29) He specifically invented “religion” to keep people in that bondage (the bondage of “religion”). Therefore, Jesus told the scribes and pharisees (i.e. the religious people); *“... ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.”* Matthew 23:15 (KJV) We begin to see how the enemy could not beat the church, so he had to join it. I am talking to you

about the enemy's playground, and where he really works. The devil does not want anyone to progress, rather it is his will that people begin to regress through oppression!

### **PUTTING ON GOD'S COMPLETE ARMOR**

*"Therefore put on God's complete armor," (we must do this) "that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place]. Ephesians 6:13 (AMPC)*

We have a warning here in 1 Peter: *"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."* (That is powerful, isn't it?) *"But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you."* 1 Peter 5:6-10 (NKJV)

Then, James tells us, *"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."* James 4:7 (NKJV) **SUBMIT TO GOD, RESIST THE DEVIL, AND HE WILL FLEE.** Do you know what that word flee means? It means to run with terror! Isn't that amazing? Sometimes we forget just how much dominion and power God has given us.

### **ANXIETY IS ADVANCED WORRY OR FEAR**

*"Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God."* Philippians 4:6 (AMPC)

We must learn to cast our cares over on to Him. This is not like a fishing pole where you cast your cares on God and then reel them back. If we do not hand them over to Him, there is nothing He can do with them. When

we worry about things repeatedly, we lose our peace, and our joy, because we are caught up in things that we do not need to be caught up in. We are caught up in these things BECAUSE we have not completely given them over to God.

People use to tell me, “You are in denial”. They told me this because I refused to get all freaked about things that would happen. I would then tell them, “No, I just see something that you do not see. I am looking at the promises of God, and I am going to stand strong. I do not have a “plan B”, because plan B is unbelief!” When people begin saying things like, “Well, if God doesn’t do this, then I’m going to do this.” That is when they are in unbelief. With this mindset, they might as well have a plan B. No, we must stand firm.

### **THE FIRST STEP OF FAITH**

Casting our cares on God is foolishness to the world; but it is the first step of faith. That is why the Amplified bible oftentimes refers to trust as, “trusting in, relying on, and leaning on”. Trusting fully in Him is our first step of faith. Are we really going to trust God with this circumstance? Can God really handle this for me?

*“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) “... we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen...” 2 Corinthians 4:18 (NKJV) This is why we need a vision from God. We need a hope from God. And then we need to stand on the things of God!! “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:” Hebrews 10:35-36 (NKJV)*

To receive the promise, we must do what the promise is calling us to do, right? This promise is calling us to do the will of God. Remember, “...*in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*” Philippians 4:6 (NKJV) Which this means you need to have a thanksgiving party. In addition to this, “... *whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever*

*things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”* Philippians 4:8 (NKJV) Right? We must think on the good things. Good things are all around us, but we must chose to think about them. We cannot continue to think about what people have done to us- for love, “...takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].” 1Corinthians 13:5 (AMPC) This is all part of spiritual maturity.

If we are concerned about what people say about us, chances are we probably will not get very far with God. If Jesus had been concerned about what people were saying about Him, He would have never fulfilled what God had called Him to do either.

Now, let’s go back. “*Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith;*” (Now how are we supposed to live? We live by faith!) “*but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*” Hebrews 10:35-39 (NKJV)

### **FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH**

We have all heard the saying, “Another level, another devil.” This is so true, for every time you graduate in God, there is going to be something bigger. David battled the lion, the bear, and then the giant. It didn’t even stop with one giant, there were multiple giants fought. [For more information on this topic please request the pamphlet: Defeating Giants in the Earth]. This is true for all of us, every battle gets bigger. There is no “happyville” in the realm of the spirit. We must take responsibility of our own actions. It is spiritual immaturity that blames other people.

Ok now let’s go back to Ephesians. “*Therefore put on God’s complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil*



*day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place]. Stand therefore [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God*" Ephesians 6:13-14 (AMPC) We must keep and wear this breastplate constantly, and understand what it is. He has MADE us in right standing with Him! Isn't that amazing? Integrity is lost in the body of Christ today.

**WHEN WE STAND AGAINST THE ENEMY AND WE ARE RESISTING,  
WHATEVER HE IS BRINGING UPON US. THAT REALLY WORKS.**

Now, think about this, *"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."* Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

So, the enemy was there in the days of Jesus oppressing people just as he is today, however there was healing available to all those who were oppressed by the devil, right? Nothing has changed.

Now think about this. My bible says there is, *"one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."* Ephesians 4:6 (NKJV) Isn't that right? Jesus is our example, and we are to follow in His footsteps. (1 Peter 2:21)

Why do you suppose that Jesus said in Luke, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are oppressed; To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."* Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV)

It is God who has anointed every one of us! And what is this anointing for? This special anointing from God is for the purpose of setting captives free and recovering sight to the blind in the natural and the spiritual realm. There is more spiritual blindness today than anything else. People do not want to believe that the enemy is still doing the same work he has

always done, deceiving people. If we begin to believe the lies of the enemy, then they (the lies) will begin to manifest in our lives. If we say what the enemy is saying about us and to us, after a while we will begin to believe his lies. Therefore, we must have the Word of God to stand against his (the devil's) lies.

*"... be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."* Hebrews 6:12 (KJV) What do they inherit? They inherit the promises. We must understand the concept of this. Here in Romans, we read of the faith of our father Abraham who, "... *not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.*" Romans 4:19 (NKJV) What made Abraham so strong in faith? It was that the mountains facing him in the natural realm were not even a consideration for he was fully persuaded of God's promises! Without a shadow of doubt this man was strong in faith! Abraham possessed the faith of God, believing in the promise of God. *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might."* Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV)

### **IT IS NOT OK TO BELIEVE THE ENEMY'S LIES**

We have a strong warning here in Hebrews regarding unbelief. *"Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God"* Hebrews 3:12 (NKJV) If we are in unbelief we are moving away from God. However, if we want to move into God we will need to pray and seek, and He is going to tell us, "I MADE YOU ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED! (Ephesians 1:6) Right? Isn't it time to jump back into your Daddy's arms and do it all over again?"

The idea is, sometimes we must get a vision of how God looks at us. We are all in constant warfare, and if we begin to believe the enemy, it will be according to our believing. The enemy can tell us that we are sick, but that is a lie! Whose report are we going to believe? It is not OK to believe the lie of the enemy. We need to believe what God says about us. Satan is the accuser of the brethren. Not only does he accuse us, but he accuses us before God night and day. (Revelation 12:10) However, we have an

advocate (1 John 2:1) that stands there, and He (Jesus) says; nope, I made him accepted in the Beloved (Ephesians 1:6). There is nothing there that stands between you and God, EVER! *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

I am trying to get back to simplicity here and show you what is happening in people's lives daily, because we are in a greater warfare than ever before. We are going to see greater manifestations of demon forces than ever before, but at the same time, the world is going to be crying out for deliverance, like never before. There is an hour coming, and people are seeking deliverance.

### **EVERYBODY THAT HAS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS THE POWER TO HEAL AND DELIVER**

Ok now back to Ephesians. *"And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace."* Ephesians 6:15 (AMPC) So, how are we supposed to face this enemy? We face him with the good news, right? The Gospel is the good news!

When people say; "oh I'm just a sinner saved by grace", that is a lie! You are born of God, and you cannot sin. Right? *"No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, for God's nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God."* 1 John 3:9 (AMPC) YOU CANNOT SIN! *"Blessed is the man who the Lord will not impute sin."* Romans 4:8 (KJV) *"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."* Psalms 103:12 (NKJV). Think about this for a moment, if you get in an airplane and begin flying east you will always go east, right?

Now going back to Ephesians, think about this: *"... [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace."* See there is only one way we can

get the victory, and that is through the Word of God. The enemy is going to come along and accuse you, but you have already been accepted in the beloved, (Ephesians 1:5-6) and you are already washed in the blood of Jesus. Jesus has made you righteous. *"... from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,"* Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

*"Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have]; for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support."* THIS IS GOD TALKING TO US! "[I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]" Hebrews 13:5 (AMPC) ARE YOU GETTING THIS? NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS! God will love you all the way to hell, but He will NEVER quit loving you, even if you quit loving Him.

Now think about this; *"So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my Helper; I will not be seized with alarm [I will not fear or dread or be terrified]. What can man do to me?"* Hebrews 13:6 (AMPC)

When the enemy comes to accuse us, we can say; *"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life..."* Isn't that good? *"...of whom shall I be afraid?"* Psalms 27:1 (NKJV)

### **WE TAKE THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD**

We take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, right? When we have the sword of the Spirit, we can boldly ask the enemy things like, "What are you going to do to me?" And "just who do you think you are?" I love it when the enemy asks me, "Who do you think you are?" Then I can respond, "Well, how much time do you have devil?" We can preach to him for hours about who we are! Right? We are ambassadors for Christ

Jesus! We have a whole list of who we are in Christ printed out here. Just request it and we will send it to you.

*“When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear, though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident. One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”* David is speaking of that heavenly temple, right? Think about it. *“For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. <sup>6</sup> And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore, I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.”* Psalms 27:2-6 (NKJV)

Just how do we enter His courts? *“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise...”* Psalm 101:4 (NKJV) Yes, we enter into His courts with praise! That is good stuff, isn't it? That was David's attitude about the whole thing. You see God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm. (Ephesians 1:3) This is exactly why David could say, *“I foresaw the Lord always before my face...”* Acts 2:25 (NKJV) We are in the tabernacle of David. Everybody needs to get a hold of this. We are in this place! *“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”* Colossians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

One time this lady came into my tent during a service with a broken leg and she said, “God broke my leg.” WHAT? So, I said, “if I took a bat and broke my son's leg, (who was sitting right next to her) would you think I really loved him?” Come on, really? Even when we feel we are so full of the love of God; we cannot even compare to His goodness. God would never break our legs no more than we would break our children's legs.

His love goes far beyond the love that we have for our children; it is boundless.

Going back to Ephesians. *“Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith...”* Now think about that; the covering shield of saving faith. *“...upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one].”* Ephesians 6:16 (AMPC) We can quench all of them!

*“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* 1 Corinthians 15:57 (NKJV)

*“Now thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.”* 2 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

### **WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS IN EVERY SITUATION**

*“Yet, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”* Romans 8:37 (NKJV) The phrase here more than conquerors in the Greek is the explosive word: *hupernikaō* (pronounced hoop-er-nik-ah'-o) which means to vanquish beyond, i.e., gain a decisive victory: -- more than conquer, to gain a surpassing victory! This indicates that we, as the children of God; the Royal Seed of Abraham, are beyond victorious. We are super-victorious!

Sometimes we must rehearse these things in our minds, and remember we ARE more than conquerors, and there is nothing the enemy can come against us with. Is there anything too hard for God? (Genesis 18:14) NO!

*“Little children, you are of God [you belong to Him] and have [already] defeated and overcome them [the agents of the antichrist], because He Who lives in you is greater (mightier) than he who is in the world.”* 1 John 4:4 (AMPC)

We have already overcome them, all the agents of the antichrist! God has already given us the surpassing victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! You are more than conquerors! More than, that is powerful! WOW! There

isn't anything that can even compare. Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world!

When the disciples came back and said to Jesus, *"Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."* Luke 10:17 (NKJV) Jesus responded to them by saying, *"... I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."* Luke 10:18-20 (NKJV) Remember when Jesus came back in His glorified body, He told His disciples, *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth..."* Then what did He say? *"Go therefore..."* Matthew 28:18-19 (NKJV) Now, do we see that? The power was His, and He gave it to them and said... "GO"! He has given it to us too, and we can go in the power of His might! Dominion has now been restored back to man.

We must continue to exercise this. It is like if you do not use your muscles by exercising them, they become weak. It is the same in the realm of the spirit. *"...the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."* Matthew 11:12 (KJV) We must take it by force. We take it by force using the Sword of the Spirit! Which is the word of God!

### **OUR WEAPONS OF WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL BUT MIGHTY THROUGH GOD TO THE PULLING DOWN OF ALL STRONGHOLDS**

We must get violent with this whole program. We must realize we do have an enemy, (an unseen enemy) and the weapons God has given us are, *"... weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;") Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of..."* Every thought is brought to the obedience of what? *"...Christ"* 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (KJV) In other words, Christ meaning the written Word. That is the way I would put this, the Living Word and the written Word. Now think about this, every thought brought captive. In other words, we cannot let our minds

run away with imaginations that are contrary to the written Word. Those are vain imaginations, right?

*“because, although they knew God, they did not glorified Him as God, nor were thankful; but became futile in their thoughts,” (imaginations) *“and their foolish hearts were darkened.”* Romans 1:21 (NKJV) This is not where any of us want to be in our thought process.*

Therefore, our weapons of warfare are not carnal, but MIGHTY through God to the pulling down of strongholds. So, what are the strongholds we need to get rid of? The strongholds are the thoughts that the enemy has put in our minds which are exalting themselves against the knowledge of God. The devil is not all present and all knowing, but he can put strongholds in our mind that will last the rest of our life if we do not deal with them. That is why we need to RENEW our minds with the Word of God.

*“... be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”* Romans 12:2 (KJV) When we begin to read His Word we are conformed less to the vain imaginations of carnal thinking, and instead we are now in unison with who we really are in the Word of God! This really is who we are! We are what the Word of God says we are. He says, we are sons of God; so, we are! He says we are blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm, so we are! This is all because God’s Word says so, that’s it! That is how powerful it is. When we then begin to speak His Word, our life is programed by what we say. We are prophesying our own destinies. We are where we are because of what we have been prophesying.

Again, let’s go back to Ephesians. *“Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one].”* Ephesians 6:16 (AMPC) Quenching all the flaming missiles! Wow! You see, what they would do back then, is light arrows on fire and shoot them. That is why they were called flaming missiles. Now think about this; we can quench ALL the flaming missiles. Yes, every flaming



missile that the enemy can shoot at us, but we have to know the Word of God.

Satan came to Jesus and said, ***“If thou be the Son of God...”*** Matthew 4:3 (KJV) Well hello, God had already spoke from heaven and said, *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* Matthew 3:17 (NKJV) Everybody heard it, and Satan was there too; he heard it as well! You know that is Satan’s favorite word; “IF”. IF is a word of doubt and unbelief.

### REVELATION OF THE HELMET OF SALVATION

Back to Ephesians again. *“And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is...”* (WHAT?) *“... the Word of God.”* Ephesians 6:17 (AMPC)

We must understand something here, taking the helmet of salvation. We know that this salvation, will be revealed [for you] in the last time. *“Who are being guarded (garrisoned) by God’s power through [your] faith [till you fully inherit that final] salvation that is ready to be revealed [for you] in the last time.”* 1 Peter 1:5 (AMPC)

Jesus is our horn of salvation. *“And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David;”* Luke 1:69 (NKJV)

That salvation means to be delivered from the hand of all those that hate us. Salvation is deliverance, protection, safety, and healing. *“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.”* Revelation 12:10 (NKJV) NOW salvation is come, and the kingdom of God and the power of His Christ!

This is going to happen very soon! It is going to come upon the people who are real believers, not the people that have the attitude of “Well, I go to church and pay fire insurance”. It is going to happen to the people who are really looking for it to happen. He will appear to them who look

for Him. Jesus has really been appearing to people radically, through the whole bible, but even more so now.

*“so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”* Hebrews 9:28 (NKJV)

### **IT IS WRITTEN; THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT IS THE WORD OF GOD**

Back to Ephesians. *“and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is”* (WHAT?) *“the Word of God.”* Ephesians 6:17 (AMPC)

So, what did Jesus say to the devil? IT IS WRITTEN. *“It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”* Luke 4:4 (KJV)

Satan was asking Jesus if He was hungry. Of course He was, He had been fasting for forty days. The idea is, that the devil will hit you at your weakest point. If you study this concept all the way through the Word of God, you will see that is where he always hits, at our weakest points. He is going to try to hit us in our weakest points too. But that is a good way to tell us where we are weak. So, we better strengthen up our armors where it is getting thin, right? We better get some scriptures in us and figure out what is happening. That is how we discern the enemy. We can use his strategies against him! So, did we get this? We use the sword of the Spirit right back at him!

*“And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, I believed...”* We believed what? We believed the Word of God. *“... and therefore, I spoke, we also believe and therefore speak,”* 2 Corinthians 4:13 (NKJV) When we believe the Word of God, we speak the Word of God. When we Speak the Word of God, we are prophesying our destinies, and we will have the perfect will of God for our lives.

Therefore, Paul would say, *“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;”* Romans 10:8 (KJV) He is talking about the sword of the Spirit!

Everyone is in warfare, and the only way to fight is to use the Word of God. The people that get defeated are the people who do not believe they are in warfare; therefore, they are ignorant of the need for weaponry.

*“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”* John 10:10 KJV Remember this is why Jesus (the Word of God) came.

Isaiah says, *“Behold, I have created the blacksmith who blows the coals in the fire, Who brings forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the spoiler to destroy. 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.*” Isaiah 54:16-17 (NKJV) The spoiler or waster (your adversary) was created with a purpose to destroy. He wants to destroy your faith, everything you have, and ultimately everything God has called you to be.

### **SATAN IS AFTER OUR MINDS**

People can be in ignorance. The Bible says, *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...”* Hosea 4:6 (KJV) People can be moving in things, bound by things, and can be completely unaware of what is holding them hostage. Mind control is out of proportion. Satan is after our minds. God wants our minds, but He will never control us unwillingly. We must possess Him. That is the difference. People can become possessed unknowingly by the adversary when they are not guarding their hearts with all diligence. (Proverbs 4:23)

Peter asked Ananias, *“Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...”* Acts 5:3 (NKJV) Think about that for a moment, how could Satan fill his heart? You cannot fill a heart that is already full, right? It is when one has an empty heart that the enemy can fill it.

Back to Ephesians one last time. *“Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God’s consecrated people).”* Ephesians 6:18 (AMPC)

The Holy Spirit is ever making intercession for the saints. *“Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”* Romans 8:27 (NKJV)

Well, He is in us and if we do not pray, He is not praying through us for somebody that needs prayer. This is how it works. He is not just floating around in us so, we had better pray in the Spirit for this person or that person. That is where the blessing is; for us to pray for others, because there is no selfishness in that prayer. There is no “I” or “me” in that. *“Pray without ceasing”* 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV) Jesus said, *“... men ought always to pray and not to faint”* Luke 18:1 (KJV)

### **STANDING IN THE GAP; MAKING UP THE HEDGE**

What is prayer? Prayer is us talking to God, and God’s talking to us. We are standing in the gap and making up the hedge. We need more people doing this.

*“So I sought for a man among them, who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found no one.”* Ezekiel 22:30 (NKJV)

That is sad to think about, isn’t it? See we must understand that man has the earth leased, and God has no right to move upon this planet. That is why God looked for a man that would stand in the gap and make up the wall. Why? It is because when we begin to intercede and pray, that gives God a right to move. That is scripturally sound. God gave man, *“... dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that*

*creepeth upon the earth.”* Genesis 1:26 (KJV) God gave man that dominion, and the idea of that is that we need to exercise our dominion.

**Son of man is God in man, working through man, in his (man’s) dominion.** This is because God is **IN all of us, WITH all of us**, and **WORKING THROUGH all of us!** (Ephesians 4:6) He has always used man to establish what He wants in the earth, and it is no different today. His kingdom come, His will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. The idea of this is we must establish God’s kingdom, and everything He wants in our earthen vessels.

***“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”*** 2 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV)

So, first we establish the kingdom of God in our vessels, or earth (pointing to myself), then we establish His kingdom in the earth around us. Those are principles of God, and this cannot be done any other way.

I go to hospitals and pray for other people and the Holy Spirit taught me that when I go to pray for a person, I pray like I were praying for myself. We should pray for that person like we would want someone to pray for us. How would we want somebody to pray for us if we were dying of cancer?

I am talking about wrestling with principalities and powers. You see Satan is, “... *the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*” Ephesians 2:2 (KJV).

We can come under this demonic influence very easily, and not even be aware of it. He could lead us around by our nose, and we would not even realize it, if we are not sensitive to the Holy Spirit. We must get through that demonic atmosphere, and dwell in God’s realm. Right?

*“Thus says the Lord: Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool: where is the house that you will build Me? and where is the place of My rest?”* Isaiah 66:1 (NKJV) It is through praise that we enter His tabernacle. Then what do we do? We speak the Word of God! It is written for a

purpose! For instance, *“You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts You.”* Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)

### **YOU ARE IN A BATTLE**

To fight the good fight of faith is a powerful thing. We are all in a battle. Some people will say, “I do not want to play this game”, then I will tell them, “Well you are playing anyway, and you are losing.”

It is not that hard to play, because we have got all the weaponry that we need.

***“... count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”*** James 1:2-3 (NKJV)

Jesus (the Word of God) is our example, and we are to follow in His footsteps (1 Peter 2:21). He is an overcomer; therefore, we too are overcomers! ***“He who overcomes (is victorious), I will grant him to sit beside Me on My throne, as I Myself overcame (was victorious) and sat down beside My Father on His throne.”*** Revelation 3:21 (AMPC)









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*“Finally, brethren, pray for us,  
that the Word of the Lord  
may have free course,  
and be glorified, even as it is with you.”*

*2 Thessalonians 3:1*

*“So mightily grew the Word of God and prevailed”*

*Acts 19:20*

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