

The Sword Of The Spirit

“And take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Eph. 6:17).

In 2001 an interesting incident took place at the Logan International Airport in Boston. A man by the name of Raymond Morrison went to three terminals wearing a cowboy hat, with three samurai swords protruding from the waistband of his jeans. Apparently Morrison had no travel plans and no desire to breach security, but he did make a weekend trip to jail for disorderly conduct.

The Roman soldiers used two different swords, a long two-edged sword that was held with both hands and a short straight sword used in hand to hand combat. The length varied from six to eighteen inches, whatever was comfortable to the individual soldier. The last piece of armor mentioned in this portion of Scripture is the short sword (Gr. *machaira*), the sword most often found in the soldier’s hand.

In spiritual warfare, the Christian soldier is equipped with “the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” As we engage the enemy, we can completely trust its ability. “For,” as is stated in the Scriptures, “the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged 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” (Heb. 4:12).

The sword of the Spirit is a minister of respect! When the Roman soldier had a sword in his hand, the enemy was much more cautious. The sword always won the respect of those on the other side. We can be sure that the devil and all his cohorts are very careful when we come to the battle with the sword of the Spirit. Of course, the Word of God is not just to be held in our hands, it is to be claimed and experienced in our hearts and lives.

The sword of the Spirit is a manifestation of resistance! While this weapon was primarily an offensive weapon, it was also used to block and hinder the opposition. It caused the enemy to think of retreating instead of assaulting. We are taught to “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Jesus did this by quoting the Scriptures (see Matt. 4:4, 7, 10). When we utilize the Word of God in spiritual warfare, Satan meets a holy resistance he cannot overcome.

The sword of the Spirit is a means of retaliation! In any war, the two enemies are out to wound, kill and destroy. Certainly, Satan is out to destroy all the soldiers in the Lord’s army. Of course, we are not fighting for victory, but from victory. However, we are fighting, and the Word of God enables us not to “give place to the devil” (Eph. 4:27), or let him “get an advantage of us” (2 Cor. 2:11).