

Praise God that He has seen fit to also give us His Word.... Amen?

One of the reasons I wanted you to see that video....is....Those bibles in the boxes are not some magic charm coming into that village.....Even if the boxes are opened and the books are distributed to each home.....if they remain unread....

If the Word of God remains unspoken... ....they will not somehow ward off evil.....

If the Word is not **applied..** and believed.....It will not become armor to protect them from Satan. And (as I hope we will see today) if specific portions of the Word are not **SPOKEN**.....

Then the lies of the darkness will keep on oppressing people....

That is not JUST true in Papua New Guinea.....

If the Word of God is not spoken in America....the KOG will **keep on** losing ground **HERE**..... and in other places where darkness reigns...

We have been learning (from Eph. 6) that God has **ARMED** us with certain truths that are the result (the outworkings) of the GOSPEL....

Our lives are being immersed in... surrounded by Truth.... We are protected by Jesus' Perfect Righteousness... We are guarded by God's Promise for a salvation ready to be revealed.... We have been given the gift of **FAITH** in GOD and as we exercise it ....it becomes a SHIELD against all the enemy's vicious attacks.....

If you are actively asking and believing God to protect you through these promises...

Then you are fully **ARMED** against the devil.....you have put on God's armor....

Today... we want to look at how we can also be.... **DANGEROUS**....

2<sup>ND</sup> Part.....

## **ARMED & DANGEROUS**

Open your Bibles....

### **Ephesians 6:14-20**

"Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an

ambassador in chains, that I may **declare it boldly**, as I ought to speak."

The **immediate** effect of the Holy Spirit coming upon the church .... (as recorded in the book of Acts) was that the people of God began to speak His Word with Boldness.....

The Holy Spirit does not speak half-heartedly when declaring truth in the midst of a storm of lies.....

He fills us with Himself so that we can proclaim His Word BOLDLY... as we ought to speak.

Christians who **BLEND in** with the culture, who are indistinguishable... both in word and action from a world that hates God.....are not a cause of concern for our enemy.... in fact he LOVES it.....

We only become **DANGEROUS**.... when we understand the reason God has not yet taken us to **heaven**....

When we realize that we have been stationed HERE.... in this place.... at this time..... so that we can go on the offensive against the enemy...

By **SPEAKING**.....

in order to RESCUE all God's lost sheep from their captor.....through the gospel.

### Armed and Dangerous

1. Arm Yourself
2. Speak With Boldness
  - a) Speak the Word
  - b) Speak to God
  - c) **Go!** Speaking the Gospel

The OFFENSIVE weaponry for God calls us to TAKE up in the passage all involve the active and intentional use of our **MOUTHS**.....

In the KOG... GOD goes on the offensive.... (through His people) as we ...

## **2. Speak with Boldness**

Remember the picture I tried to paint for you last week of the Roman soldier.... holding forth his shield....as the enemy begins to penetrate his position.... he thrusts and cuts with his sword.....?

Some thrusting and cutting will be required **by you**.... if you are going to stand firm against Satan...

the Sword of the Spirit is what we are to thrust and cut him with.....

says (v. 17) that we are to take the Sword of the Spirit.... which is the Word of God.

Remember that in the Roman empire..... there were no **Glock** Pistols... for personal protection or **M-16's** for battle....

Only SWORDS.....



Roman legionaries were famous for their disciplined, close order use of **thrust** swords like this one ...

Because of their skill in fighting together as an army..... using the combination of both their shield and these swords... their invasions into new territories were almost **unstoppable**...

Keep in mind... what made the Roman soldiers victorious... so often... was not just the Sword itself.... but their having become disciplined and skilled in the **use** of it....

....  
Look at the instructions again with me.....

### **Ephesians 6:17**

"and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,"

To get what Paul is saying here you need to understand that there are basically two Greek words that we translate using the English -> word....

First is **Logos**..... The Greeks Philosophers of Paul's day understood the Logos....(Word) to be the ordering principle of the world...

John made use of that word to help us understand that YES... there is a WORD... a communication of God.....that holds all things together.....

That Word (that whole body of communication from God) became flesh and dwelt among us...

We have in the PERSON of Jesus .... the Living Word of God (in a holistic sense)...

That is why James says you are to receive the Word implanted which is able to save your soul....

When you hear, understand and believe the communication from God.... (The Word that says... God has sent His Son... to become flesh.... live the perfect life that you could not live.... and then demonstrated His love for you.... by having Him DIE in your place.....to pay for YOUR sin..... that is how you are SAVED from the punishment of God that you deserve....

But there is a another Gr. Word which we translate **word** (in English) which is **Rhema**...

That is the word Paul is using here....

It means a specific saying... a particular utterance of God.....

James Boice points out (in light of this) that John 3:16 is a Rhema ; so is Rom. 3:23

Example: In Luke 2... when the angel of the Lord spoke to Mary the promise:

**Luke 1:35**

"And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."

**Luke 1:37**

"For nothing will be impossible with God."

That was a SPECIFIC and particular WORD from God....

Whereas an angel probably won't show up in your bedroom tonight... (at least that you are aware of).... the Holy Spirit will SPEAK ...as you seek God in His Word...

He will let you know.... (in ways that subjective...yet real)....when He is applying a SPECIFIC word to your life....

When He does..... TAKE IT UP! Make it yours.....

That is what Mary did.... and so here is how she responded...

**Luke 1:38**

"And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your **word**."

word = rhema..... So Mary was saying.....According to **this** SPECIFIC promise applied to my life....

Every time I wake up in the middle of the night and Satan has put the thought in my head..... are you **NUTS!** You are a virgin! How on earth could you be pregnant?

Maybe you did something... and you are so ashamed you have blocked it out???

No! (takes out her Rhema) the Specific Word applied to her by the Holy Spirit....

The Holy Spirit will come upon ME, and the power of the Most High will overshadow ME; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."

"For **nothing** will be impossible with God."

You don't think that happened to Mary? She was human just like you..... and Revelation tells us Satan was after her with a vengeance.....

The Sword of the Spirit..... is a Word **fitly spoken** in a right circumstance.....

So...Your Weapon.... is....

### A. Speak the Word

**Review** – What is Satan's primary weapon against you? -- **LIES**.

He has been a **Liar** from the beginning.....

He daily impregnates your mind with his lies..... some new ... some old....

You have heard the expression.... when someone is making something up..... that they are full of **hot air**....

That is actually what ALL lies are..... **Inflatable realities** .....blown up.....and dressed up to look like the real thing....

They might come in the form of some PERSON... that you put on a pedestal..... and you think if I can just be with THEM.... life will be good....

Or some PROMOTION at work..... or some temptation to **GET RICH QUICK**.....

But if you **take hold** of them.... begin to build your version of reality on them.... Only to find that they burst.... and you are left holding an empty dream...

Your heart is left EMPTY.... aching for something **TRUE**.....

All of Satan's words are FABRICATED realities.... they are full of **hot air**....

They must be PIERCED... , punctured and sliced up with your SWORD!

Exposing them to the sharp edge of Divine Truth....

Take note... you can't expect to be ready to do combat with Satan when the BIG attack comes..... if you aren't DAILY taking up your sword... learning to USE it in puncturing Satan's **little** lies....

one by one....

If you are not on guard against the little lies....

Bringing them alongside the standard of truth... and deflating them with Scripture....

You will find you will be properly equipped and trained against the **UGLIEST**...and most **heinous** LIES that will come your way....

Example:

I met a man this past week.... who last year assumed a position at Boyce College (SBTS)...as a professor of worship....

He has been in pastoral ministry for 20 years... so he knows a little about spiritual warfare....

But.... right after moving to Louisville... they learned that his wife....(mother of 7) had 2<sup>nd</sup> degree breast cancer. Picture:



She is only 35.... mother of 7

She is now in Chemo.... and so far they have only found cancer in one lymph node....

Her name is Mary Connell and I told him that we would be praying for them.....

But some of you don't have to imagine (because you know from experience) what kind of **WARFARE** they are NOW having to wage... as Scott (husband) seeks to go to work every day preparing a new generation of worship leaders.... while his helpmeet... is battling this great evil....

Not only will Satan bring **vivid fears** of what life would be like if she dies.....

But of the agony of the fight .... even if that doesn't happen....

Satan will bring in FIERCE... **monsters** of fear....and doubt....that will invade Scott's mind...

- Is God really **good**?
- Is He really Sovereign..... how could He let this happen?
- Maybe you weren't supposed to come to Louisville.....

In the heat of battle... you will not be able to effectively combat those LIES... those DOUBTS...

Unless you have already TAKEN up.... committed to memory.... put into practice....

Specific portions of God's utterances....

In order for them to become a SWORD... they must be SPOKEN by you.... I would recommend .... **out loud!**

If you talk to Christians who have suffered greatly..... and have come through the fiery furnace of their trials....

Ask them.... they will tell you..... God gave them **a SWORD**....

The Holy Spirit APPLIED to their situation a **specific WORD**.....with which to combat the LIES and temptations of the enemy in the heat of battle....

Remember in Pilgrim's Progress..... when the evil day came upon Christian.... and he had to do battle with Appollyon himself....as Satan was tempting him to turn back from following Christ.....

Satan hurled fiery lies at him one after the other.... and he fell to the ground....

But then... by God's grace... Christian was able to grab hold of a Rhema.....

He SPOKE and thrust Satan through with these words....

#### **Micah 7:8**

"Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, **I shall rise**; when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me."

#### **Romans 8:37**

"No, in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through him who loved us.

Do **You** have a Sword....for whatever trial... whatever evil you are facing right now?

You Need One.....

Carrying your Bible under your arm is good..... having it on your desk is good.....Having Bible software on your computer is good....

None of those are the Sword of the Spirit.....

You NEED to seek the Lord for **specific WORDS** that the Holy Spirit applies directly to your situation... He infuses them with **LIFE** and power.... so you can wrap your hands around that truth... and SPEAK it in Satan's face when he comes calling....

#### **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."

**THAT** is our weapon.....and Satan can not stand against it.... when God speaks His Word through us.... in the midst of the darkness....

If you are struggling with LUST... or PRIDE... or FEAR... or any other **sin handle**... that Satan can grab you by and run with .....

You need a Sword... a WORD with which to SPEAK....

But remember.... we are not here ..... to merely **survive**.....

God has **a mission** for us to accomplish.....

He has people to **SAVE** as you speak His word in the right circumstances..... Here is the promise Jesus gave his disciples as he explained that mission to them....

### **Luke 21:15**

"for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict."

Speak the Word ... boldly...

Secondly... we are to speak Boldly and confidently to God in **prayer**....

### 2. Speak with Boldness

A. Speak the Word

**B. Speak to God**

Remember... back in ch. 3 of this letter.... Paul told us... that in Christ... we have **unrestricted access** to God in prayer.....so we don't have to be **SHY**.... we don't have to overly FORMAL.... you just have to open your heart and your mouth... and SPEAK to God..

### **Ephesians 3:12**

"in whom we have **boldness** and access with confidence through our faith in him."

When you pray... in **war**.... you must do it with confident assurance that God **HEARS** you... you must BOLDLY plead the blood of Jesus... and the truths of this armor we have studied.....if you are to overcome the evil one...

Paul says here....

### **Ephesians 6:18**

"praying at **all times** in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"

Because you are no longer separated from God.... but have become CONNECTED **to Him** in Jesus Christ.... prayer must now become like **BREATHING** for you....

Think of Prayer as the **oxygen tube** of your soul...

Paul does not say..... read your Bible without ceasing..... He does not say witness without ever stopping.... He does not say sing out loud to God your every waking moment....

But He does say... **never stop** praying.... Here he tells us (because we are at war)....

Pray at **ALL** times.....

Pray with **ALL kinds** of prayers....

& Pray for **ALL** the saints.....

James also teaches about this **ALL SEASON** kind of praying:

**James 5:13-14**

" Is anyone among you **suffering**? Let him pray. Is anyone **cheerful**? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you **sick**? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them **pray** over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."

Every ARMY needs a secret weapon.... and **prayer** is ours.

In fact (C. Vaughan points out) the **only** way we are going to be able to stand firm.... is **through** prayer....

It is only as we are **in communion** and under the authority of God (in the Holy Spirit) that we have any authority to confront the devil....

Through Prayer... we become an incarnate messenger of GOD Himself.

It is **as** we are in communion with God (via the Holy Spirit) that our Sword becomes Living and Active... to slice through Satan's lies ....

Prayer is **not PASSIVE**..... we must pray as fervently and as boldly as the situation demands....

By **that**... I do not necessarily mean you need to SHOUT....

But just as intensely as you would ask for help on the phone (calling 911) if you were in trouble....

Or if you were in a foxhole...with a walkie talkie trying to reach headquarters....

in times of spiritual attack you should pray with all your might....

Asking God to **SEND** help.... to COME and rescue you! and He **will**....

Sometimes that may involve **fasting**.....and / or taking time from other activities specifically to get before the Lord with your petitions and thanksgiving....

Don't leave any aspect of your life.... of your family... of your friends..... of missionaries... **UNCOVERED** by prayer.....

It is the AIR FORCE of what happens here on the ground....

Some of you are old enough to remember that movie from the early 80's called the Final Countdown.... where a modern aircraft carrier runs into a storm that transmits it back in time... to WW2.....

Didn't you love those scenes where The Japanese Zero's... are about to launch an attack on the allies... and out of nowhere these F-16's zoom by..... effortlessly shooting them down with missiles....?

THAT is what happens in the spiritual realm when you PRAY.....

Satan has his air force..... but GOD's is infinitely more powerful.... and he commands you here to CALL on Him at all times.... and for all things...

Pray boldly... you belong to God.... and you are on mission for Him... He will not leave you to fight uncovered.

Read **Daniel 9** (if you want a great example of what this looks like) and why we should not GIVE up in our crying out to God to send help...

Lastly...

2. Speak with Boldness
  1. Speak the Word
  2. Speak to God
  3. **Go! Speaking the Gospel**

The last piece of divine protection we are to take up is our greatest offensive weapon:

### **Ephesians 6:15**

"and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace."

A barefoot soldier in the infantry is not much good.... he will basically be **immobilized**... because his feet are unprotected...

The Roman soldiers had studded sandals that protected them from rocky terrain but also gave them TRACTION so they could take the fight where it needed to go.....

That is why Paul says your feet are to be shod... with the **PREPARATION**...of the gospel of peace...

Your MIND and your MOUTH have to be in a continual state of **READINESS**.... ready to Go through any open door God gives you in order to **PUBLISH** his peace!

You are a Peacemaker on Wheels..... even though most of your co-workers don't know it.....

You have the message of reconciliation....in the gospel...

Isaiah prophesied about what our MISSION would look like...

**Isaiah 52:7**

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns.""

You **ALONE** have that message..... and it is the message Satan hates the most....

That is why Paul said to the Ephesians..... as you pray.... **don't forget ME!**....

The prayer request we would expect from Paul.... would be pray I will be released and not killed....

But instead.... right in the circumstances he finds himself in..... Paul asks for prayer to **Go!** with the gospel through the open doors God gives him....

**Ephesians 6:19-20**

"and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I **ought** to speak."

Satan had Paul **immobilized** by that chain..... his feet could only go so far... to publish the good news..... but he wanted to be found faithful to speak it boldly with every opportunity God gave him...

- Right where he was at....
- among the people God had sovereignly placed at his feet...

**How about you?**

The devil's main strategy... is to keep Christians **QUIET**.....

To keep them talking about STUPID... meaningless topics..... like the rest of the world...

And to work together with the world to **BAN** Christians from talking about Jesus....

It is a blessing....to be able to stand in this room and proclaim the gospel to anyone who will come and hear.....

But do you know what would happen if I .....or one of these students.....came back this time tomorrow and stood in this same spot and did so?

They would be asked to STOP immediately..... if they kept on.... asked to leave the building...

That is precisely the same strategy the Jews used against the early church....

I wonder... is it working with you?

God has ARMED us with HIMSELF.....

We have NOTHING to fear.....

except..... that we would give way to our flesh.... and cease to be **DANGEROUS** with the gospel.

Paul... admitted..... **I** NEED God's help..... pray for me that I will NOT keep quiet....

And Paul was facing DEATH.... for doing so.....

I wonder..... as you bow your heads... close your eyes.....

Anyone hear acknowledge their need for Paul's same prayer.....

That you would like someone to pray for you that God would give you WORDS...

and that you would BOLDLY speak the gospel to those God opens the door for....

That you would be READY .... PREPARED to speak.....

Anyone?

Pray: God.... we present ourselves before you..... and we want to be BOTH armed and DANGEROUS....

We want to be found faithful.... as your incarnate messengers of PEACE.....

**Romans 15:33**

"May the God of peace be with you all. Amen."