

The Sword (Ephesians 6:17)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. Great sword fights in cinema and every Christian's sword fight
 - B. Outline of sermon
- II. **Knowing your weapon – What is the Sword of the Spirit?**
 - A. Grammar identifies *'the sword of the spirit'* as *the Word of God*
 - B. Links between the Spirit and the Word
 - 1. Creation (Ge 1:2, Jb 26:13 Ps 104:30, 2Pt 3:5, Heb 11:3, Ps 33:6)
 - 2. Regeneration (Jn 3:7-8, Ez 11:19, 36:26-27, Jer 31:33, 1Pt 1:23)
 - 3. Sanctification (2 Th 2:13, Jn 17:17, 1Jn 3:24, Ep 5:19 v. Col 3:16)
 - 4. The separation of Spirit v. Word is a false dichotomy
 - C. What is *the Word of God*?
 - 1. The incarnate Word - Jesus Christ Himself (Jn 1:1, Rev 19:13)
 - 2. The declarative Word of Jesus Christ - the Bible
 - a. The *rhema* (as opposed to *logos*) of God
 - D. The Bible is God's sufficient, supernatural, authoritative declaration
 - 1. The sufficiency of Scripture
 - 2. Scripture is supernatural
 - a. The searching power of Scripture (Heb 4:12)
 - b. The comforting power of Scripture
 - c. The resurrecting and regenerative power of Scripture
 - d. The only hope for the revival of God's people
- III. **How is the Word of God like a sword?**
 - A. It is both an defensive as well as offensive weapon
 - 1. defensive (Ps 119:92, Mt 4:4,7,10, Ps 17:4)
 - 2. offensive (Ja 4:7)
 - 3. qualifications to its offensive use
 - a. not recklessly (Jd 9)
- IV. **How to use your sword rightly?**
 - A. Use the sword only *after* you have the rest of the armor in place.
 - 1. Much damage is caused by ministers wielding swords without the other armor in place (2 Tim 2:14-16)
 - B. 8 practical ways to use your sword rightly (J.C. Ryle)
 - 1. *Begin reading this very day*
 - 2. *Read the Bible daily*
 - 3. *Read with child-like faith and humility*
 - 4. *Read all the Bible and read it in an orderly way*
 - 5. *Read the Bible fairly and honestly*
 - 6. *Read with an earnest desire to understand it (in context)*
 - a. be familiar with hermeneutical principles
 - b. distinguish between law and gospel
 - c. read in light of Christ, the cross, and the Gospel
 - 7. *Read the Bible with an eye toward obedience and self-application*
 - 8. *Read the Bible with Christ continually in view*