

***Living Worthy of My Calling, Pt. 38***  
***“Take Up the Sword of the Spirit”***  
Ephesians 6:17 and selected passages

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We are called to actively apply the Word of God in every part of our life.

### 1. Our Neglect of the Sword

(1) **A Common Scenario:** When we are ensnared, pressed by temptation:

- We pray, we cry out, but seemingly to no avail.
- We neglect to use the “sword of the Spirit!”

(2) **The Problem at its root:** A failure to believe in the sufficiency of the Word

### 2. The Sword Put to Use

(1) **The Necessity of Preparation:** *Viewing and analyzing sin as an “enemy”*

-1- **I must be prepared to discern the precise point of attack/temptation**

- to recognize the “first stirrings” of sin
- to recognize when I “enter into temptation” or have become “ensnared” cf. Matt. 26:41

-2- **Indicators:**

- when the lusts of the heart meet up with the thing, occasion, person that stirs up that desire
- when we are disturbed and distracted – arguing, debating within
- when the heart begins to like exposure to the temptation (cf. Prov. 6:27-29)
- when we find it easy to neglect matters of spiritual duty

(2) **The Necessity of Action:** *Attacking sin as an enemy*

-1- **Prayer:** I certainly must cry out to God...and continue to do so!

-2- **Action:** I must bring the Word of God to bear upon sin and temptation

- Watch carefully for its first movement! (I can only do this by means of prayer!)
- Drag it out into the open – expose it, call it what it is!
- Use every conceivable measure to take away its life

-3- **Precision:** I must bring the Word of God to bear *precisely* upon the temptation.

**Some Examples: “It is written!”**

- **fear and anxiety** – Is. 41:10; Phil. 4:6; Ps. 94:19

- **guilt or condemnation** - Rom. 8:1, 31-34

- **bitterness** – Eph. 4:31-32

- **impure, illicit desires** – 1 Pet. 2:11; 2 Tim. 2:22; Prov. 5:18

- **the fear of man** – Is. 41:10; Matt. 6:6; Ps. 62

- **discontent, envy** – 1 Thes. 5:18      “In everything give thanks...”

(3) **The Dynamic:** *How should this “feel”?*

- We walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Cor. 5:7)
- We should not expect some sudden sensation of power.
- We *will* discern an incremental advance.

### Further Application