

Prayer Focus This Week

The Final Piece of Armor

The final piece of armor according to Ephesians 6:17b is "...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." It goes without saying if we don't **know** the word of God, then we can't **use** the word of God as a weapon. Even if we know what the Bible says, but we don't understand how powerful it is, we will be ineffective. If we walked around town with a 45 strapped to our waist but didn't know how to use it, or what it was capable of doing, we might look impressive, but we wouldn't be a threat to anyone who might confront us!

There will be many times when Satan **will** confront us and/or challenge us, and if we aren't prepared to use the word of God as a weapon, he will ultimately **defeat** us...unless and until we pick up our "sword" and wield it against him. Hebrews 4:12 says "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double edged sword..." When Satan tempted Jesus in the desert, it was the word of God that shut the enemy down and took away his power, and it says he left Jesus. Satan will bombard us with his lies, but when we counter those lies with the truth of God's word, he will move on to someone less prepared.

One great result of reading and knowing the word of God is that since we have His word in us, in any and every situation we encounter, the Holy Spirit will come and remind us what His word says, and will give us the exact verse or verses we need to be victorious! 1 John 5:14-15: "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him." Anytime we pray His word back to Him, we know it's His will!

This is, or should be, very comforting to us! When the enemy mounts an assault against us, it could come through some physical affliction, often through relational issues (with our spouse, parents, kids, boss, etc), accidents, things breaking down, or anything that might cause a negative response from us - that's when we need to make sure we wield the sword of the Spirit - the truth!

When we draw the sword of the Spirit, we have the greatest offensive or defensive weapon we will ever need, plus, the word of God will give us direction, confirmation, comfort, peace, hope, strength, faith, and whatever else we might have need of. **Read** the word! **Know** the word! **Apply** the word! **Live** victoriously!