

Be Strong in the Lord  
Put on the Whole  
Armor of God  
**Part 8**

**THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**



***OUR DAILY BREAD***

Junior Edition

2-24-08



## **SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW:**

God is perfect. He is Holy. We are all sinners. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

(Romans 3:23a KJB)

None of us could ever make ourselves perfect or holy to be accepted by God. But God loves us all so much, that He gave His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to go to the cross and pay the penalty for our sins IN FULL, ONCE and FOR ALL. Jesus died and rose again. Because of the Lord Jesus Christ, God can now make us holy and acceptable to Himself. *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.* (1 Peter 3:18 KJB)

Jesus Christ is our ONLY WAY to God and heaven.

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

(John 14:6 KJB)

*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.* (Acts 16:31 KJB)

Without Jesus Christ, you can NEVER be accepted by God or go to heaven. When you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God makes you His child. When you leave this world, you will spend all of eternity with Him! *But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.* (John 1:12 KJB) While you are still here on earth, learn His beautiful Word. Believe it and obey it, so you can enjoy all God has done for you.

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.*

(Colossians 3:16a KJB)

Have you ever watched  
someone painting a picture?  
Or perhaps, you have even  
painted one yourself!



Good painters usually have a whole collection of tools that they use to complete their picture. They know what each one is used for. They also know exactly which tool and color to use at just the right time, in just the right place, in just the right way to complete their picture. Good artists don't use ALL their tools at once. Good artists know HOW to use all their tools & exactly WHEN to use each one - especially if they run into problems as they work to complete their work. They've LEARNED ABOUT & PRACTICED WITH all these tools over & over & over until they can use them QUICKLY in just the right way! The good artist has all his or her tools cleaned & ready to use & placed where they can reach them quickly.



Have you ever watched  
a person playing a sport?  
Or perhaps, you have even  
played a sport yourself!

Good athletes know all the rules of the game. They know all the plays that are necessary to score enough points to win. They know about & wear all the proper equipment for their particular sport. Good athletes use the just the right equipment in just the right way to be protected from injury & to make just the right plays at just the right time. Good athletes know exactly which play to use for each & every situation that arises as the game goes on. They practice using their equipment & executing the plays over & over & over again until they know them really well & can do what needs to be done in a split second! Good athletes don't use ALL their plays at once, but they KNOW them all really well. And as each obstacle

arises during the game, the good athlete can QUICKLY choose just the RIGHT ONE to use to score points - even to win the game!

### *It's just the same for soldiers.*

Good soldiers need to have certain kinds of equipment. Good soldiers need to learn all kinds of defensive & offensive tactics to be able to resist the enemy - to defend themselves as well as to conquer the enemy & win!

For a soldier to become a good soldier, he needs LOTS & LOTS of practice using his equipment & learning all the commands from his captain to be able to use the right ones in the right way at the right time! Good soldiers can make GOOD QUICK decisions if needed. Good soldiers have all their equipment cleaned & ready for use. They also have a variety of weapons. They know lots of war tactics. They don't use them all at once. Good soldiers know exactly which ones to use & when for every situation.



Well, as we have learned in our past 7 lessons, there is a battle going on in this universe. A battle between God & Satan over the souls of men. Get the lessons 1-6 to learn about this if you need to. God wants man to trust in Jesus & all His promises. Satan tries to get man to think that God does not even exist! And for those who DO believe that God exists, Satan wants to keep them from learning that Jesus is their only way to heaven. And for those who have already accepted Jesus as their Savior, Satan wants to keep them from learning & believing God's promises. Satan wants to keep believers from finding out that God is FAITHFUL, POWERFUL, ALL KNOWING, AND ALWAYS RIGHT! Satan wants to keep believers from knowing how much God LOVES them!

God wants us to know about this battle. God wants us to be prepared to RESIST Satan's attacks. God wants all

His children to be able to **STAND FIRM** against Satan as they live here on earth.

For this reason, God has given His children lots of **SPIRITUAL ARMOR** to **PROTECT** their thinking from being influenced by Satan's wrong thinking. God wants us to **KNOW** about all this armor & be able to **USE IT QUICKLY** in just the right way at just the right time to protect us & give us the **VICTORY** over Satan!

Just like the artist, the athlete & the soldier, we must **PRACTICE** using God's Word every day! We must read our Bibles & obey what God tells us there over & over & over again each day! Then **WE** will be useful & victorious soldiers in this spiritual battle! When we know Promises & commands really well & have used them over & over again, we'll know exactly which ones to use to say **NO** to Satan's temptations & lies!



The Lord **NEVER** wants His children to be **CONFUSED** about what is **RIGHT** & what is **WRONG**! God tells us in His Word that He will **NOT** leave us confused when we know His Word & believe Him!

"For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

1Corinthians 14:33KJB

No! God does **NOT** want us to be confused! Instead, God says that He has given all His children **SPIRITUAL ARMOR** to protect them from being

confused & to help them in this battle against Satan. Here is our REVIEW scripture that tells us this:

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Ephesians 6:10-11 KJB

As we learned last week, God has given us certain pieces of armor to protect our thinking - what we think about God, ourselves, what this life is all about, etc. All the pieces of armor that we have learned about so far are our DEFENSE against Satan’s lies & temptations. All the pieces of armor refer to Jesus & all God’s Truths about Himself, ourselves, Jesus & life that He wants us to know. When we know & believe what GOD thinks about things, we’ll be able to STAND our ground & RESIST all the lies & temptations of Satan. We’ll be able to think & do what God says we should think & do in every situation.

But there are 2 parts of God’s armor that He has given us to use for OFFENSE! They are used for ACTION in this battle. One of these is called

### **The Sword of the Spirit!**

What is the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT?



God’s Word tells us CLEARLY what it is:  
“...and take the sword of the Spirit,  
which is the word of God.”

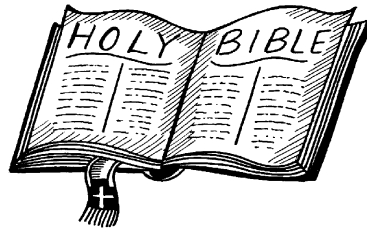
Ephesians 6:17b KJB

Did you ever think of God’s Word as a SWORD?

Well, God says His word IS a SWORD! What is a

SWORD? A sword is a military weapon used for one to one, close combat. And in the days when swords were used, the good soldier knew how & when to use his sword in just the right way. Well listen to what God says about His Word being a sword in Hebrews 4:12 KJB

"For the word of God is quick, (living) and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword,"



The Lord says that His Word is QUICK. That Word QUICK means ALIVE or LIVING! Well, what does THAT mean? It means that those printed Words you see on the pages of your King James Bible are the VERY WORDS of God! And God is ALIVE right now! He has ALWAYS been ALIVE. He will ALWAYS be ALIVE! And as you READ those written Words of God, He is SPEAKING TO YOU just as if you could SEE HIM standing in front of you! His Words to man NEVER CHANGE! They are ALIVE just as God is ALIVE & working in your life this very second! You & I may not understand this while we live down here on earth; but God says it is TRUE. He has told us & shown us in TONS of ways, that He is the ONE & ONLY TRUE & LIVING GOD! Jesus, who IS God, came 2000 years ago to show us; yet many still did not believe! But someday Jesus will come again to show the ENTIRE WORLD that GOD IS REAL! See Revelation 19:11-16

KJB. No one will doubt that God is real then! Right now our job is to BELIEVE HIM & then learn & do what He says! Here's what God says about Himself:

"But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation." Jer 10:10 KJB

And God tells us that just as He is LIVING, His Word is ALIVE! Read 1Peter 1:23-25 KJB. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that His Word is also POWERFUL and SHARPER than any twoedged sword!

When a sword or knife is SHARP & POWERFUL, what does it do? Well, it cuts! It pierces! It divides It exposes things that otherwise could not be seen.

Here is an example.

Suppose someone offered you a small snack size apple pie. That person tells you that the pie is filled with sweet juicy apples. From the outside that apple pie looks & smells delicious. But that beautiful CRUST on the outside of the pie



COVERS what is on the INSIDE of that pie. The only way for you to see what is really on the INSIDE of that pie BEFORE you take a bite, is to use a sharp tool - a knife or a fork to cut it open. That knife cuts the pie. It pierces the pie. That knife or fork exposes THE TRUTH about what is INSIDE that pie which looks so beautiful on the outside! Now just suppose that when you cut that pie open, instead of sweet juicy apples, you saw



## Slimy worms!

You sure would be glad that you had used



your fork or knife to expose the TRUTH of what is in that pie BEFORE you ate it! Satan's lies & temptations are like that pie full of worms! At first they sound true, they look good. But if we believe them & give in, soon our lives become a mess of mistakes like the inside of that pie - yucky worms - NOT good at all! Read Isaiah 3:12 b If we know God's Word, we WON'T believe the lies! We won't be caught up in a messed-up life!

So What does God's Word cut? God's word CUTS or EXPOSES the LIES & TEMPTATIONS of Satan that we may have in our minds & be believing. It helps us see God's TRUTH that we should believe!

Hebrews 4:12 tells us what God's TWOEDGED SWORD, which is HIS LIVING WORD, exposes:

"For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, sharper than any twoedged 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."



God's Word exposes all the lies of this world because only His Word is the ABSOLUTE TRUTH!

"Thy word *is* true *from* beginning: and every one of they righteous judgments *endureth* forever."  
Psalm 119:160 KJB

Learn God's Word really well! It will free you from Satan's lies. Read John 8:31-32! You will know WHICH of God's truths to use to answer each & every lie & temptation of the liar Satan! Be a good spiritual swordsman! Know God's Word so that you can speak His Word in the right way & at the right time. USE THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT!

# GRACE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John A. Ricci

## Sunday Morning Service

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Transportation Service ~ Call 24 hours Prior

## Weekly Services

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:30 P.M.

## Prayer Meeting

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:00-7:20 P.M.

## Communion Service

First Sunday of Every Month

## Children's Prep School (Ages 5-14) & Mother's Room

Available for Every Service

## Email

info@gracecfellowship.org

## Directions

### From I-95

- RI Exit #22; *Left* at split to **Rt. 6 W.**
- Take Killingly St (Rt. 128) Exit; *Right* off Exit.
- Take Killingly to end; *Right* on Manton Ave; cross bridge.
- Turn *Left* at light (CVS on corner), and then bear *Left* at the split. You are now on Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1 mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Left*.

### From Rt. 146

- Mineral Spring Ave Exit in Providence.
- From **146 N** turn *Left* off Exit; from **146 S** turn *Right*.
- Take Mineral Spring to end and stay *Left* around the rotary (pass North Providence Town Hall).
- Take next *Right* onto Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1½ mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Right*.



## Grace Christian Fellowship

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