

EPHESIANS 6:17

GOD'S POWERFUL PANOPLY (PART 6 – THE WORD)

Piece six: the sword of the Spirit

"The Spirit's sword is invincible."¹ — R. C. H. Lenski

Defined.

Hebrews 4:12; Matthew 4:1-11

The appropriateness of the metaphor.

The spirituality of the weapon.

"It is this because it leaves God's mouth. So one need not [sic] think of the writing in Scripture although this records the utterance by inerrant inspiration; nor of 'the preached Word', for although it is the same utterance, when it is preached it passes through our mouth; nor of the idea of meaning (logos), for no utterance of God is devoid of meaning. 'God's utterance' as an 'utterance,' as 'going for out of God's mouth' (Matt. 4:4), makes it 'the sword of the Spirit' that is so deadly in striking down the foe of God and of man."² — R. C. H. Lenski

Dressed.

- a. God speaks clearly; therefore, we should interpret His words normally,
Gen. 2:15-17; Matt. 12:3, 5; 19:4; 21:16, 42; 22:31
- b. God speaks authoritatively; therefore, we should obey His words immediately,
Ps. 119:60
- c. God speaks sufficiently; therefore, we should regard His words uniquely,
Ps. 12:6; 119:140

¹ R. C. H. Lenski, *The Interpretation of St. Paul's Epistles to the Galatians, to the Ephesians, and to the Philippians* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1937), 673.

² R. C. H. Lenski, *The Interpretation of St. Paul's Epistles to the Galatians, to the Ephesians, and to the Philippians* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1937), 673-674.

- d. **God speaks powerfully; therefore, we should hear His words fearfully,**

Ex. 24:17; Deut. 4:10-11; 5:23-27; Heb. 12:21; Ps. 119:120, 161

"This trembling at God's Word is that which will help the soul against all other tremblings... It is the way to cure you of all base fears. If you will never fear man, nor losses, nor any affliction, nor trouble, then fear the Word of God and tremble at that. The more fear there is of God's Word, the less fear of any creature in the world. It is the only way to free you from all fears whatsoever."³

— Jeremiah Burroughs

- e. **God speaks wisely; therefore, we should heed His words carefully ,**

Pro. 1:8ff, 20ff; 2:1ff; 8:6ff; Eph. 5:15

Defended.

- a. **It establishes faith,** *Pro. 8:6-9; Jn. 20:30-31*
- b. **It clarifies thinking,** *Ps. 19:8b; 119:104-105*
- c. **It sanctifies believers,** *Jn. 17:17; 1Thess. 2:13; 1Jn. 2:1*
- d. **It provides protection,** *Pro. 2:8-9; 5:1-6; 6:20-24*

³ Jeremiah Burroughs, *Gospel Fear* (Orlando, FL: Soli Deo Gloria,), 43-44.