

**Stand Firm in Warfare:
The Call to Battle – The Sword of the Spirit!
Eph 6:14-20 (Part 8)**

I. Today – The Sword of the Spirit!

A. Turn to Eph 6 and Let's read our passage

Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, 19 and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

B. Remember our Outline: STAND FIRM in WARFARE

1. The CALL to PREPARE (6:10-13)
2. The Call to Battle / Fight (6:14-20)
 - a) The Mandate: 14 Stand firm therefore,
 - b) The Method (How we stand firm)
 - (1)The Girdle of Truth
 - (2)The Breastplate of Righteousness
 - (3)Feet shod with Gospel of Peace
 - (4)Then 16 in addition to all, taking up...
 - (a)Introducing the LAST 3 PIECES of ARMOR
 - (b)= put in place at TIME of BATTLE
 - (c)taking up= IMMEDIATE READINESS

- (5) The Shield of Faith
- (6) The Helmet of Salvation
- (7) The Sword of the Spirit (today)
- (8) Prayer in the Spirit

II. The Sword of the Spirit

Eph 6:17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

A. Metaphor

1. Remember – two types of Swords!
 - a) Roman Broad sword that the helmet defended against
 - (1) 3-4' long 2-handed baseball bat sword!
 - (2) Swung by horseman trying to take you out in a single blow!
 - b) Machaira sword (Machaira is the Greek word for this sword!)
 - (1) Normal close-fighting sword
 - (2) 6-18"
 - (3) Carried in a sheath on soldier's belt!
2. Most famous use of the Machaira in Scripture?
 - a) Peter in the garden cutting off the ear of Malchus, the servant of the High Priest (Matt 26:51)
3. KEYS:
 - a) VERY PRECISE weapon
 - (1) Peter wasn't that precise!
 - (2) Properly trained soldier used with great precision – didn't just swing wildly.
 - b) DEFENSIVE and OFFENSIVE WEAPON
 - (1) Every other piece of armor – DEFENSIVE ONLY
 - (2) Now you have both in the sword
 - (3) = stop blows of the enemy
 - (4) = strike enemy offensively

B. Meaning – Pretty obvious!

“sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

1. sword of the Spirit = Sword that is given by the Spirit
2. Remember = VERY PRECISE WEAPON →
3. which is the word of God = special phrase!
 - a) “word” NOT “logos!
 - b) “word” = rhema = SPECIFIC utterances
 - c) IOW – matches the precision of the sword
 - (1) NOT talking about the Word of God in GENERAL
 - (2) IS talking about Specific USES of the WORD of God!
4. Understanding Scripture is the ministry of the Holy Spirit!
= Illumination (1 Cor 2:14-16)
 - a) Remember – Unsaved people do not understand Scripture because it is spiritually discerned – BUT YOU DO! (again 1 Cor 2:14-16)
5. Remember too = DEFENSIVE and OFFENSIVE WEAPON!

III. Defensive Sword Fighting!
A. Turn to Matthew 4:

Mt 4:1-11 1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’ ” 5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU’; and ‘ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’ ” 7 Jesus said to him, “On the other

hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.' ” 8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.' ” 11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.

B. THREE DIRECT Temptations!

1. Feed yourself! Make stone-bread. Don't wait for God to supply Your needs
 - a) Response: Jesus quotes Deut 8:3!

“It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.' ”
2. Jump and show how God will have You caught!
 - a) Response: Deut 6:16

7 Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.' ”
3. Worship me and I'll give You this world!
 - a) Response: Deut 6:13

10 Then Jesus said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY' ”
4. Can't you just visualize Satan swinging his sword of temptation – AND Jesus stopping the blow with Scripture!

C. How about you? Can you defend yourself OR are you defenseless?

1. Think about it – Do you give biblical answers?
 - a) To others?
 - b) To YOURSELF? When attacked or tempted?
2. If not, do you go to the Bible or ask someone?
3. IOW – IS ONE OF YOUR CORE PRINCIPLES to BE CHRIST-CENTERED / BIBLICALLY-BASED in all that you do?

D. Worse than that – do you THINK you KNOW the WORD

1. AND – you don't OR – you don't in critical areas?
2. **IF you were attacking** someone with a sword – would you...
 - a) ATTACK right where their sword is?
 - b) OR attack where there is an opening? DUH!
3. So – do you think the attack is going to come in the area of your strongest knowledge of the word?
 - a) OR do you think Satan will go for a weak spot? DUH!

E. REMEMBER – Paul's NOT talking about basic, general knowledge!

1. He's talking about SPECIFIC STATEMENTS!
2. When someone tries to provoke you to anger, what do you think?

[Jas 1:19-20](#) ...everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger; [20](#) for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

[Pr 15:1](#) 1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

[Eph 4:26](#) [26](#) ... do not let the sun go down on your anger,
[Eph 4:31-32](#) [31](#) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. [32](#) Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

F. Some of my greatest disappointments come when I see people

1. Who think they know it all and stop reading and studying
2. Who don't think they know it all AND STILL don't study and read Scripture
3. Who have been Christians MANY, MANY Years and STILL don't know God's word

4. The author of Hebrews got exasperated with his audience and wrote one of the most SCATHING INDICTMENTS in SCRIPTURE

Heb 5:11-14 **11** Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is* hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. **12** For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. **13** For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. **14** But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

- a) How long have you been Christians and you don't know the basics?
- b) Let's go back to basics!

IV. Offensive Sword Fighting!

A. Let's turn to Eph 4:1 and key off of ONE WORD!

[Eph 4:1](#) Therefore ...

B. First – let's talk about what the word means...

1. It's most IMPORTANT meaning is SYNTACTICAL. In English, I just said...
2. It's MOST IMPORTANT meaning
 - a) IS how the word functions to connect to adjacent texts of Scripture (what is before word and after it!)
 - b) Technically it is called a "conjunction" (a word that joins things – like "and" does)
3. In connecting to texts together it says: "BASED on ALL That I JUST TOLD YOU (preceding text), THEREFORE, YOU MUST DO THE FOLLOWING...(following text)"

C. OK – so WHY is it so important?!

D. This ONE WORD reminds us HOW to USE THE WORD of GOD – Offensively!

1. Remember we come to Scripture to KNOW CHRIST
2. We come to KNOW Christ by OBEYING CHRIST
3. So – we COME to SCRIPTURE to APPLY SCRIPTURE to BECOME like CHRIST TO KNOW CHRIST!

1 Jn 2:3-6 3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

4. SO – let’s use EPHESIANS to remember HOW to COME to SCRIPTURE to APPLY SCRIPTURE!

V. The Eph 4:1 Therefore Principles

A. *Connectedness (of Scripture) Principle (i.e. no proof-texting allowed)*

1. One of the WORST errors you can ever commit is to PULL a specific verse out of its context and use it to mean something that it doesn’t mean
 - a) Called “proof-texting” = I want to prove something, so I go find a Scripture to support me!
2. One of the saddest examples was when San Diego had those huge wild fires and many lost their homes
 - a) Rick Warren – the pastor behind the Purpose Driven Life wrote an article saying that God wanted these people to GRIEVE and MOURN the LOSS OF THEIR HOMES!
 - b) Scriptural support? Mt 5:4 “Blessed are they who mourn”!
 - c) He just pulled verse right out of context to make point!
 - d) Matt 5:4 deals WITH MOURNING OVER YOUR SIN!
 - (1) God doesn’t ENCOURAGE US to grieve the loss of things He’s going to burn up anyhow!
 - (2) God wants us GRIEVE and MOURN over OUR SIN!

3. SOooo – where does “[therefore](#)” fit in?
 - a) A: “Therefore” SHOWS US THAT you CANNOT ISOLATE ANYTHING from Eph 4-6 from Eph 1-3!
 - b) WHOLE BOOK is CONNECTED by “[therefore](#)”
 - c) If I pull any verse out, I run GREAT RISK of MISUSING it WITHOUT the FOUNDATION / CONNECTION with Eph 1-3!
 - d) Therefore – TO APPLY ANYTHING in Eph 4-6 you MUST THINK about HOW IT IS CONNECTED BACK to Eph 1-3 DOCTRINE!

4. **Connectedness Principle: EVERY TEXT has A CONTEXT. The MEANING of EVERY VERSE is found ONLY in it's CONTEXT.**

- a) USUALLY that context is WITHIN a FEW VERSES of the verse AND NO FARTHER than the BOOK it's in for direct application!
- b) Do you see that? That leads to FOUNDATION principle!

B. Foundation Principle

1. The first principle was important in that we see physical connectivity, and, hence, can't just pull verses out of context
2. BUT LOOK to SEE GOD'S MEANING behind this...

3. **Foundation Principle: ALL DUTY is BASED on DOCTRINE! EVERYTHING God REQUIRES of US is BASED on DOCTRINE.**

4. What is “doctrine”?
 - a) Doctrine = FACTS or PRINCIPLES given to us BY GOD IN SCRIPTURE
5. Restate Foundation Principle: EVERYTHING GOD REQUIRES of US is BASED on FACTS or PRINCIPLES He has GIVEN US!
6. What does God REQUIRE of US? = the COMMANDS of the BIBLE!

7. This what the BOOKS of THE NT are FAMOUS for – especially Paul’s
 - a) Doctrine then duty / Principles then practice
 - b) Theology followed by Conduct!

C. “Therefore” = BASED on ALL GOD has DONE FOR YOU, “THEREFORE YOU MUST DO...”

1. Clearly we see it here in Ephesians right?
 - a) THREE chapters of DOCTRINE – of WHAT GOD has DONE through CHRIST
 - b) The PURPOSE He had in ETERNITY PAST
 - c) The POWER that brought that PURPOSE into TIME and HISTORY
 - d) Now, 4:1 “THEREFORE” followed by THREE CHAPTERS of APPLICATION!
 - e) But – THREE CHAPTERS of application BASED on the DOCTRINE of Eph 1-3
 - f) After 3 Chapters of WHAT Christ has done for us – Paul DIRECTLY and SIMPLY says “WALK in a manner worthy of your calling”
 - (1)= LIVE UP TO your POSITION in Christ
2. How about Romans? first book we see from Paul?
 - a) ELEVEN chapters of DOCTRINE! Concludes with Ro 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? 35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.
 - b) Then Ro 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and

holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.* 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

(1) Followed by FIVE chapters of APPLICATION

(2) ALL BUILT on the FOUNDATION of the DOCTRINE in Rom 1-11!

3. How about Colossians?

a) Chapters 1-2 = doctrine

(1)= MOST CHRIST-CENTERED doctrine of NT!

Col 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ...

(2) Follow then by TWO Chapters of DOCTRINE

4. How about Galatians?

a) FOUR chapters of Doctrine!

(1)= FREEDOM in Christ!

(2) Freedom from circumcision and law-keeping for salvation!

(3) Then Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

(4) Another Great "THEREFORE" and TWO chapters of Christian Living!

5. GOD always gives DOCTRINE then DUTY / Principle then Practice = THE FOUNDATION PRINCIPLE

6. Our BEHAVIOR is ALWAYS based ON DOCTRINE.

7. Our side of foundation principle is ...

D. Motivation Principle

1. When I look at what is required of me by God, what is my motivation?
 - a) God says “Thou shall not kill”.
 - (1) That’s the command.
 - (2) Why do I not want to kill?
 - (3) We see the principle in Gen 9:6
[Gen 9:6](#) “Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.
 - (4) A: I don’t want to kill ANYONE because ALL men are made in the IMAGE of GOD!
2. Do I need motivation to obey God? YES!
3. Does God give me motivation to obey Him? YES!
4. If I stated it from the FOUNDATION PRINCIPLE I would answer that my motivation for my DUTY is the DOCTRINE God gave me
5. BUT Let me say it in a way that makes more sense-
6. What is the CONTENT of the DOCTRINE God has GIVEN US?
 - a) A: DOCTRINE = What God has done for us IN CHRIST!
 - (1) My MOTIVATION is to LIVE RIGHT in RESPONSE for WHAT Christ has DONE for me!
 - (2) Yeah – I can call Eph 1-3 “doctrine”
 - (3) BUT I can also call it ALL that GOD has Done for ME in CHRIST
 - (a) I was DEAD in SIN
 - (b) Under the POWER of the WORLD, SATAN, etc.
 - (c) Then I read Eph 2:4
[Eph 2:4](#) But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our

transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

(d) I'm MOTIVATED to FOLLOW God's COMMANDMENTS! Look what He did for Me!

b) DOCTRINE = WHO God is!

(1) My MOTIVATION is to BE LIKE GOD and SCRIPTURE tells me what HE is LIKE!

(2) When God says in 1 Peter 1:15 "BE HOLY as I AM HOLY!" I go to the REST of SCRIPTURE to see the HOLINESS of GOD

(3) Then I know how to be holy as He is holy!

7. MOTIVATION PRINCIPLE: The DOCTRINE of SCRIPTURE = Who God IS / What He has DONE for me in Christ = IS MY MOTIVATION to OBEY HIM and LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY!

8. Why? You are TRYING to BE CHRIST-LIKE

a) You are TRYING to LEARN a PERSON and ACT LIKE that PERSON

b) God says – DOING is EMPTY and NOT-DOABLE unless you know ME THROUGH MY SON!

9. You see - the ONLY THING that is LIVING and CHANGING is the WORD of GOD

a) Your job – BE in the WORD for the PURPOSE of LEARNING CHRIST

b) Holy Spirit's Ministry- CHANGE YOU while YOU LEARN and then ACT in accordance with the WORD

c) NOTE – The WORD is NEVER APART from LEARNING / BEING Christ-like

(1)And – DOING is never done APART from

(a)A FOCUS on Christ

(b)A FOLLOWING of His WORD

10. Example: Talking to a Christian man about his marriage – in desperate need of counseling
 - a) I said – you’ve got to get a SOLID Biblical COUNSELOR
 - b) He said “What good is that going to do? Is he going to just tell me we’re in sin and we need to change?” I don’t need that!
11. But, if instead you WALK through Eph 1-3 AND SHOW HIM ALL CHRIST has done for him, and THEN ASK IF he can do the COMMANDS of EPH 5, how else can they answer IF Holy Spirit is IN THEM?
 - a) What is Eph 1-3 all about? UNITY in the CHURCH – the BODY of CHRIST!
 - b) What is the BASIS for the COMMANDS to the HUSBAND in Eph 5?
 - (1)THE EXAMPLE of CHRIST’S LOVE for CHURCH
 - (2)ALREADY demonstrated Love!
12. How Many PARENTS / SPOUSES do I know that say that THEY GRIEVE TERRIBLY over their family / marriage
 - a) Some have CHILDREN in deep SIN
 - b) Some have marital problems with their spouses
 - c) AND in EVERY PROBLEM case, the other side is ALIENATED and UNWILLING to listen to THEIR “GODLY counsel”
 - d) Problem: These folks AREN’T IN THE WORD themselves. Therefore,
 - (a)Haven’t taught children /spouse
 - (b)Haven’t MODELED right behavior – so kids / spouse AREN’T SEEING THAT THEY SHOULD BE in the WORD

- (2) Don't KNOW PROPER Christ-like BEHAVIOR towards other person (instead anger, disgust, pushy, etc)
- (3) Don't KNOW proper BIBILICAL MOTIVATION / answers for the other
 - (a) Can't walk them through Ephesians 1-3 to SHOW them the BASIS for right living.
- e) What does the other person receive? - A: YOU'RE IN SIN and NEED to GO CHANGE!
- f) What's wrong here? THEY have NOT LEARNED CHRIST through His word and NOT SEEN HOW MOTIVATION WORKS in the Christian LIFE!
- g) Because of that THEY CAN'T PASS IT ON!

13. Repeat: MOTIVATION PRINCIPLE: The DOCTRINE of SCRIPTURE = Who God IS / What He has DONE for me in Christ = IS MY MOTIVATION to OBEY HIM and LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY!

E. Work Principle (Sanctification principle)

1. "[Therefore](#)" is a dreaded word wherever I go
 - a) In meetings, we'll spend first half the meeting hearing things such as
 - (1) Orders are down / Costs are up
 - (2) Competition is tougher than ever
 - b) And then comes the dreaded "THEREFORE"
 - (1) Therefore, "we're letting people go"
 - (2) Therefore, "we're stopping all unnecessary expenses" – travel, training, etc.
 - (3) Therefore, "we not giving raises next year"
 - (4) AND THEREFORE, we now need you
 - (a) CUT COSTS / BE MORE PRODUCTIVE
 - (b) INCREASE SALES
 - c) "[Therefore](#)" is WHERE the WORK COMES IN!

2. SAME in SCRIPTURE!

- a) **“Therefore”** MEANS there IS SOMETHING you MUST DO!
- b) Martin Lloyd Jones: “In the light of this word “therefore” we must say that sanctification is NOT a gift to be received; it is rather something that has to be worked out in the light of doctrine. It is an imperative, a command. The teaching which assures us that we have nothing to do but to receive sanctification as a gift, that is to say, to allow Christ to live His life in us, bypasses the Scripture, eliminates whole sections of the Scripture.”
- c) Did you hear that? PEOPLE believe that THEY DON'T have to do anything!
 - (1) God will change me!
 - (2) So, I don't have to study, pray, apply myself, stop sinning!
 - (3) God's going to do that for me / to me!
 - (4) Lloyd Jones says: “The teaching which assures us that we have nothing to do but to receive sanctification as a gift, that is to say, to allow Christ to live His life in us, bypasses the Scripture, eliminates whole sections of the Scripture”
 - (5) IOW – YOU HAVE to IGNORE GOD'S OWN WORD to BELIEVE THIS – IOW IT ISN'T TRUE!
- d) How does God say it?

[Php 2:12](#) So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

 - (1) We are to WORK OUT our SALVATION!
 - (2) It says “CONTINUALLY WORK to BRING your SALVATION to COMPLETION!”
- e) Or how about these verses?

1 Co 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

2 Co 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Ga 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

2 Pe 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, 7 and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

- f) I like to tell people that the Commands of Scripture are not there for God to hear himself speak!

3. You know what the sad thing is?
 - a) WE all KNOW THIS
 - b) YET -We all PURSUE of WORLDLY THINGS!
 - c) We spend more time DIETING to look right than we do putting off sin to look right spiritually!

4. **WORK PRINCIPLE:** We are **COMMANDED** to **WORK OUR SIDE** of **SANCTIFICATION** in **RESPONSE** to **WHAT GOD** has **DONE FOR US THROUGH** Jesus Christ!

VI. Conclusion

A. So – you have the Sword of the Spirit – the Word of God

B. Do you just carry your sword to church every Sunday and then put it back on the shelf for the rest of the week?

C. Does anyone EVEN KNOW YOU HAVE A SWORD?

D. Or do you train with it and fight with it?

E. This phrase – take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God – COULD EASILY BE a THEME verse for our CHURCH

1. We want to be known for KNOWING and LIVING God's word
2. And, therefore, KNOWN for KNOWING and BEING LIKE JESUS CHRIST

F. So, take up your swords and properly fight this battle!