

BLAKE WHITEMAN THE REAL WAR: THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT & PRAYER

FEBRUARY 23rd, 2025 Text 'HERE' to # 208.297.7630 to record your attendance Text to give to Real Life, simply text your amount to #208.261.7473

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV) - 10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.**

THIS WEEK: THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT & PRAYER

WHAT IS THE SWORD FOR IN THE ARMOR?

The sword referred to here comes from the Greek word *machaira*. Although it could be up to nineteen inches in length, most often it was shorter and shaped like a dagger-type sword. Just as a dagger is most effective at close range, this sword was used only in close combat. It was razor sharp on both sides of the blade. The tip of the sword often turned upward; sometimes it was even twisted, similar to a cork screw. Because this dagger type sword was razor sharp, it could easily be thrust into the abdomen of an adversary. And if it had a cork screw tip, the attacker could shred the insides of a victim by twisting the sword. (Renner)

- Defense or Offense?
- Effective! How?
- Dangerous!
- **The sword of the spirit is the word of God**

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NIV) - 14But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV) - 12For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

- Defense or Offense?

- Effective! How?
- Dangerous!

PRAYER

Ephesians 6:18 (NIV) - 18And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

James 5:13-18 (NIV) - 13Is anyone among you in trouble? **Let them pray.** Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church **to pray** over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16Therefore confess your sins to each other and **pray for each other** so that you may be healed. **The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.** 17Elijah was a human being, even as we are. **He prayed earnestly** that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

• On all occasions, of all kinds, keep on!

- Petition – Abraham & Lot - Intercession – Jesus & Peter - Repentance – David - Wisdom – Daniel - Lament - Lamentations

- Adoration – Solomon
- Confession – James
- Thanksgiving - Hannah
- Supplication – **Philippians 4:6** - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

THE SWORD'S PRAYER

Psalms 119:9-24 (NIV) - 9How can a young person stay on the path of purity? **By living according to your word.** 10I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. **11I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.** 12Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees. 13With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. 14I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. 15I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. **16I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.** 17**Be good to your servant while I live, that I may obey your word.** 18Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. 19I am a stranger on earth; do not hide your commands from me. 20My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times. 21You rebuke the arrogant, who are accursed, those who stray from your commands. 22Remove from me their scorn and contempt, for I keep your statutes. 23Though rulers sit together and slander me, your servant will meditate on your decrees. 24Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Luke 11:2-4 (NIV) - 2He said to them, "When you pray, say: " 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. 3 Give us each day our daily bread. 4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. ' "

NEXT WEEK: NEW SERIES! – 5 QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What stood out to you from this message on the Spirit, Word and Prayer? Why?
- What is the most personally challenging or convicting part of this message? Share.
- Where do you see God's part, our part and other's part play out in this message?
- What is one next step you can take from this message and who can you share it with? • To



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