

### III. The Sword of the Holy Spirit

In a world that shifts its values, idols, and versions of utopia every generation, Christians need the stability of God's unchanging truth, His word. This truth is transcendent, cutting through the thickest error with force, with precise finesse that leaves a soul undamaged, and with such clarity as to leave no doubt for the honest seeker. This, the Spirit does.

#### A. The Holy Spirit's Sword

Ephesians 6:17: "And take the helmet of salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

**SWORD = Spirit + WORD**



**Comment:** The Roman sword *gladius* is in mind here, a short, double-edged sword used for close combat. All other elements of armor for the Christian that Paul describes in Ephesians 6 are protective. *The sword is the one offensive weapon.*

Hebrews 4:12: "For the *word of God* is living and active and *sharper* than any Two - Edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and *able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*"

#### B. What Can The Holy Spirit's Sword Do For Me?

1. Lead to Jesus. Jesus said about the Scriptures, "these testify about Me" (John 5:39). God's word is CHIEF in leading us to Christ, not secondary books (useful as they are).
2. Cut the Fat. The fatty tissue in our characters (pride, gossip, lust, etc.) needs to go. God's word exposes our spiritual obesity and the Spirit makes the incisions at our invitation.
3. Kill. In battle, swords are used to kill, not scratch. Use the Spirit's weapon of God's word to kill lies (not people or their hearts, but lies). Jesus did this against Satan and hypocrites.
4. Populate Heaven. Share God's word with others in love and earnestness and the Spirit is at your side in your effort to win people for God (see Acts 8:25-35).

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Scripture quotes taken from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise indicated

# WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT & WITH FIRE SERMON SERIES

STUDY GUIDE 4

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

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The Christian Bible (Old and New Testaments) was written by men directly inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is the ace revelation of His will and gauge for character-building, experience, doctrine, and the truthful account of His acts in history. It is the maxim of developing kinship with Christ and growing in godliness (sanctification).

## I. Who Authored the Scriptures?

### A. The Holy Spirit Inspired the Prophets

Bible writers did not craft their own message:

2 Peter 1:20, 21: "No prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men **Moved** by the **Holy Spirit** spoke from God."

2 Tim. 3:16: "All Scripture is **Inspired** by God..."

- OT testimony: 2 Sam. 23:2; Neh. 9:30; Eze. 2:2; 11:5, 24; Micah 3:8; Zec. 7:12
- NT testimony: Mark 12:35, 36; Acts 28:25; 1 Peter 1:10, 11; Heb. 3:7; 9:8

### B. A Joint Effort

The Bible was written by humans in human language at specific junctures in time and in particular locations, with all the limitations that humanness, language, space and time, and societies and cultures impose. The writers had different personalities, outlooks, fears, aspirations. But God initiated Scripture under the Spirit's charge; thus they can properly be labeled, "**God - Breathed**."

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*Inspiration acts not on the man's words or his expressions but on the man himself, who, under the influence of the Holy Ghost [Spirit], is imbued with thoughts. But the words receive the impress of the individual mind. The divine mind and will is combined with the human mind and will; thus the utterances of the man are the word of God.*

Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 21*

## II. Truth & Authority of the Scriptures

Absolute truth is an absurdity in post-modernism. But Bible authors claim Scripture is absolute truth, ergo supreme authority for humanity.

### A. The Holy Spirit Leads You to Practical Truth

If Scripture is inspired by the Spirit and embodies truth and authority, it ought to take custody of our lives. The Spirit's teachings are not to be in the clouds, but on earth in shoes.

Jesus calls the Spirit, the "Spirit of Truth" (John 14:17; 15:26)

- John 16:13: "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth."
- John 14:26: "The Holy Spirit...will teach you all things."

**The Holy Spirit will always tell the truth (though tough to take at times). And Bible truth is tangible, applicable.**

### B. What is Truth?

- John 17:17: "Sanctify them in the truth; Your **Word** is truth."  
**Jesus says God's word is truth and purifying.**

### C. Only the Spirit Can Open Minds

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" (in a confessional sense) without the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3). No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 2:11). Only with the Spirit's help, who searches the "deep things of God" (1 Cor. 2:10, NKJV) can one become convicted of the authority of Scripture as a revelation of God.

### D. The Prophets and Their Source of Authority

Bible writers testify that their messages came straight from God:

- The "word of the Lord": Jer. 1:1, 2, 9; Eze. 1:3; Hosea 1:1; Joel 1:1; Mat. 1:22
- Peter classifies Paul's writings as Scripture: 2 Peter 3:15, 16
- Paul received his message from God Himself: Gal. 1:12

### E. Jesus Backs God's Word as Authority

Jesus said things like:

- "It is **Written**." (Mat. 4:4, 7, 10; Luke 20:17)
- "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every **Word** that proceeds out of the mouth of God." (Mat. 4:4)
- "What is **Written** in the **Law**?" (Luke 10:26)
- "Haven't you ever read what the **Scriptures** say?" (Mat. 21:42, TEV).
- "It is **These** [Scriptures] that testify about Me." (John 5:39).