

How sharp is the sword in your life? Lack of use makes the Spirit's sword dull in our lives. Sharpening the sword of the Spirit brings inner healing and mighty power to defeat the enemy. Do you know the Word? Are you willing to have the Holy Spirit do surgery on your life with the Word? Without the sword of the Spirit—God's Word—your life will lack the power to pray and repel the enemy's attacks.*

* Holy Spirit Encounter Bible, Holy Spirit Encounters, 1042.

near by His Blood

Before remember that you, once Gentile—flesh—who are called Uncircumcised, that is called ^athe Circumcision made by hands—¹²that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and no God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

He Himself is our peace, who has reconciled us to Himself, and has broken down the wall of separation, ¹⁵having abolished the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that He might create in Himself one ^anew man from the Gentiles, bringing peace, ¹⁶and that He might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thereby ^bputting to death the enmity. And He came and preached

Christ Our Cornerstone

¹⁹Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰having been ^abuilt ^bon the foundation of the ^capostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being ^dthe chief cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into ^aa holy temple in the Lord, ²²^ain whom you also are being built together for a ^bdwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Eph. 1:17

Give me
the spirit of
wisdom and
revelation,
and let the
eyes of my
understanding
be enlightened

The Mystery Revealed

3 ¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of the Gentiles, make this my appeal to you in Christ Jesus, that you may know the mystery of Christ, which was hidden from ages and generations past, but now has been revealed to His saints, to whom He has chosen to make known to them the secrets of His will, which He has purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of time, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth, even you, who were once alienated and hostile in mind, doing unlawful deeds, to which you were once brought under the power of the law, that now He might present you as a holy and blameless people, who are zealous of good deeds, that you may declare the glory of Christ, who was made flesh and became man, who was given for the redemption of all, who was made to purify to Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good deeds, that you may present yourselves as slaves of righteousness, that you may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control, against such things as are contrary to the law of Christ. And such things as the law forbade, these He forbade for us, that we should not be under the law, but under the grace of Christ. Therefore, if you are in Christ, you are circumcised with the circumcision of Christ, not of the law, but of the word of Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through the word of Christ, that you may walk in newness of life, that you may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, etc. And the law was our guardian angel until Christ came, that we should be justified by faith in Christ. And now that Christ has come, we are no longer under the law, but under the grace of Christ. Therefore, let us not walk as the Gentiles walk, who are without God, but let us walk as the saints walk, who are under the law of Christ. Let us not walk as the Gentiles walk, who are without God, but let us walk as the saints walk, who are under the law of Christ. Let us not walk as the Gentiles walk, who are without God, but let us walk as the saints walk, who are under the law of Christ.

Read Ephesians 6:16–18

Are you ready for spiritual surgery and warfare? Spiritual surgery occurs when the Holy Spirit takes the Word and cuts deep into our innermost beings, exposing us for who we are. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" (Heb. 4:12–13).

The area of my life that needs the Holy Spirit to take the scalpel of the Word and do spiritual surgery is: (Check all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> My inner thoughts | <input type="checkbox"/> My habits | <input type="checkbox"/> My addictions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My emotions | <input type="checkbox"/> My motives | <input type="checkbox"/> My hidden sins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My prejudices | <input type="checkbox"/> My attitudes | |

Spiritual surgery is done on us by the Spirit, who uses the scalpel of God's Word. Spiritual warfare takes the sword of the Spirit—God's Word—and defeats every attack of the enemy. Christ defeated Satan in the wilderness with the Word (Matt. 4:1–17). Never reason with, debate with, or argue with Satan. Simply defeat Him with the Spirit's sword. But to use the sword, you must know the Word and be empowered to use it by the Spirit.

Underline the things you need the Holy Spirit to do in your life in order to be ready to put on God's armor and launch an offensive attack with His Word:

- ◆ Help to understand the Word
- ◆ Increased hunger and thirst for the Word
- ◆ Ability to memorize and recall the Word
- ◆ Boldness to use and apply the Word
- ◆ Strength to defeat the enemy with the Word

array of methods and schemes. We must be prepared to face down this infernal enemy and expose his tactics.*

* Ron Phillips, *Everyone's Guide to Demons and Spiritual Warfare*, 86–87.

Children and Parents

6¹Children, ^aobey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ^{2a}*"Honor your father and mother,"* which is the first commandment with promise: ^{3a}*"that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."*

⁴And ^ayou, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but ^bbring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Bondservants and Masters

^{5a}Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, ^bwith fear and trembling, ^cin sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ^{6a}not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ^{8a}knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

⁹And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own ^aMaster also is in heaven, and ^bthere is no partiality with Him.

The Whole Armor of God

¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ^{11a}Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the ¹wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against ^aprincipalities, against powers, against ^bthe rulers of [†]the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ^{13a}Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand ^bin the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴Stand therefore, ^ahaving girded your waist with truth, ^bhaving put on the breastplate of righteousness, ^{15a}and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶above all, taking ^athe shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷And ^atake helmet of salvation, and ^bthe sword of Spirit, which is the word of God; ^{18a}pray always with all prayer and supplication in Spirit, ^bbeing watchful to this end with all severance and ^csupplication for all the saints; ¹⁹and for me, that utterance may be given me, ^athat I may open my mouth boldly and make known the mystery of the gospel,

+ 6:12. NLI-Text reads *rulers of this darkness*.

THE ARMY

I believe that Satan is a great imitator, so he patterned his army like the holy angels. The letter to the Ephesians identifies these dark forces in the following flow of authority: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12).

Principalities

Top-ranking demonic beings are called principalities. The word *principalities* is translated from the Greek word *arche*, which means "chief." These are the chief demons, which correspond with the archangels among the holy angels. The apostle Paul wrote that these princes hold sway over the souls of people (Eph. 2:1-3). A principality is what assigns demonic spirits to operate in the disobedient. Also, these princes rule over continents and nations. In Daniel 10:12-13 the prophet is informed by Gabriel that a principality of Persia had hindered his arrival to Daniel for three weeks. Gabriel had to summon the archangel Michael to take on the arch-devil of Persia. These demons are subject to Christ (Eph. 1:20-22). They are also subject to Spirit-filled believers, as we read in Ephesians 2:6; this scripture explains that Christ has "raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

Powers

The next rank of evil officers of darkness is called "powers." The word *powers* comes from the Greek word *exousia*, which means "delegated authority," like that of a policeman. These demons seem to operate invisibly in governmental centers such as national governments. These powers cannot separate us from the love of God (Rom. 8:38). These powers will be shaken at the end of the age (Matt. 24:29). These powers, like the principalities, are subject to Christ (1 Pet. 3:22).

Rulers of the darkness

This next level of demonic leaders touches the created order. "Rulers of the darkness" is translated from the Greek word *kosmokrator*, which means "to seize and take hold of governments for the sake of darkness and evil." *Kosmas* has to do with "an arrangement or order." These rulers want to take over the offices of government, the legislatures, and the courts.

Spiritual forces of wickedness

Spiritual hosts of wickedness literally means in the Greek "spiritual fakes." The word *wicked* is *poneria*, from which we get *fornication* and *pornography*. These are the unclean spirits we deal with on a daily basis. Some of these spirits are named for us. *Beelzebub* means "lord of the flies." *Abaddon*, or *Apollyon*, means "destroyer." *Demon* means "torment the mind."