

YOUR WEAPON OF CHOICE – THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

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“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Ephesians

“A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!” When he had said this, he called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.” “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God’s word. The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved. The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity. And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.” **Luke**

ACKNOWLEDGE THE _____ OF ITS POWER - “Sword of (from) the spirit”

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,”
2 Timothy

“For 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.” **Hebrews**

APPRECIATE THE _____ IT’S POWER

“I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s **power** for us who believe him. This is the same mighty **power** that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.” **Ephesians**

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the **power** of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” **Romans**

_____ **THE POWER**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” **Acts**

PROPER WEAPON HANDLING

YOUR WEAPON IS _____

“I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws. I hold fast to your statutes, Lord; do not let me be put to shame. I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding.”

Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.” **Colossians**

YOUR WEAPON IS _____

“Therefore 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. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” **Ephesians**

I choose the true road to Somewhere, I post your road signs at every curve and corner. I grasp and cling to whatever you tell me; God, don't let me down! I'll run the course you lay out for me if you'll just show me how.”

YOUR WEAPON IS _____

“Never take your word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws. I will always obey your law, for ever and ever. I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame, for I delight in your commands because I love them.” **Psalms**

“May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees. May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.” **Psalms**

HIS WORD VS. MAN'S WORD

_____ vs. **DARK** - “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” **Psalms**

_____ vs. **LIES** - If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” **John**

_____ vs. **FEAR** - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” **Romans**

This week's training: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the **power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.**” **Romans**

Discussion Questions:

How can you, on a daily basis, acknowledge the source and capability of the words of God?

What are things that keep us from anticipating the power of God's word?

What are ways you make sure your weapon is accessible?

How do we live out Psalm 119:171-172?

If God's word produces light, truth and faith, how can we get more of it?

PSALM 119 “Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the **law** of the Lord. Blessed are those who keep his **statutes** and seek him with all their heart— they do no wrong but follow his **ways**. You have laid down **precepts** that are to be fully obeyed. Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your **decrees!** Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your **commands**. I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous **laws**. I will obey your **decrees**; do not utterly forsake me. How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your

word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your **commands.** I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your **decrees.** With my lips I recount all the **laws** that come from your mouth. I rejoice in following your **statutes** as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your **precepts** and consider your **ways.** I delight in your **decrees;** I will not neglect your **word.** Be good to your servant while I live, that I may obey your **word.** Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your **law.** I am a stranger on earth; do not hide your **commands** from me. My soul is consumed with longing for your **laws** at all times. You rebuke the arrogant, who are accursed, those who stray from your **commands.** Remove from me their scorn and contempt, for I keep your **statutes.** Though rulers sit together and slander me, your servant will meditate on your **decrees.** Your **statutes** are my delight; they are my counselors. I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your **word.** I gave an account of my ways and you answered me; teach me your **decrees.** Cause me to understand the way of your **precepts,** that I may meditate on your wonderful **deeds.** My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your **word.** Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me and teach me your **law.** I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your **laws.** I hold fast to your **statutes,** Lord; do not let me be put to shame. I run in the path of your **commands,** for you have broadened my understanding. Teach me, Lord, the way of your **decrees,** that I may follow it to the end. Give me understanding, so that I may keep your **law** and obey it with all my heart. Direct me in the path of your **commands,** for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward your **statutes** and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your **word.** Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared. Take away the disgrace I dread, for your **laws** are good. How I long for your **precepts!** In your righteousness preserve my life. May your unfailing love come to me, Lord, your salvation, according to your **promise;** then I can answer anyone who taunts me, for I trust in your **word.** Never take your **word** of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your **laws.** I will always obey your **law,** for ever and ever. I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your **precepts.** I will speak of your **statutes** before kings and will not be put to shame, for I delight in your **commands** because I love them. I reach out for your **commands,** which I love, that I may meditate on your **decrees.**

Remember your **word** to your servant, for you have given me hope. My comfort in my suffering is this: Your **promise** preserves my life. The arrogant mock me unmercifully, but I do not turn from your **law.** I remember, Lord, your ancient **laws,** and I find comfort in them. Indignation grips me because of the wicked, who have forsaken your **law.** Your **decrees** are the theme of my song wherever I lodge. In the night, Lord, I remember your name, that I may keep your **law.** This has been my practice: I obey your **precepts.** You are my portion, Lord; I have promised to obey your **words.** I have sought your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your **promise.** I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your **statutes.** I will hasten and not delay to obey your **commands.** Though the wicked bind me with ropes, I will not forget your **law.** At midnight I rise to give you thanks for your righteous **laws.** I am a friend to all who fear you, to all who follow your **precepts.** The earth is filled with your love, Lord; teach me your **decrees.** Do good to your servant according to your word, **Lord.** Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your **commands.** Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your **word.** You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your **decrees.** Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your **precepts** with all my heart. Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your **law.** It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your **decrees.** The **law** from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your **commands.** May those who fear you rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in your **word.** I know, Lord, that your **laws** are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me. May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant. Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your **law** is my delight. May the arrogant be put to shame for wronging me without cause; but I will meditate on your **precepts.** May those who fear you turn to me, those who understand your **statutes.** May I wholeheartedly follow your **decrees,** that I may not be put to shame. My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your **word.** My eyes fail, looking for your promise; I say, "When will you comfort me?" Though I am like a wineskin in the smoke, I do not forget your **decrees.** How long must your servant wait? When will you punish my persecutors? The arrogant dig pits to trap me, contrary to your **law.** All your **commands** are trustworthy; help me, for I am being persecuted without cause. They almost wiped me from the earth, but I have not forsaken your **precepts.** In your unfailing love preserve my life, that I may obey the **statutes** of your mouth. Your **word,** Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures. Your **laws** endure to this day, for all things serve you. If your **law** had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget your **precepts,** for by them you have preserved my life. Save me, for I am yours; I have sought out your **precepts.** The wicked are waiting to destroy me, but I will ponder your **statutes.** To all perfection I see a limit, but your **commands** are boundless. Oh, how I love your **law!** I meditate on it all day long. Your **commands** are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your **statutes.** I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your **precepts.** I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your **word.** I have not departed from your **laws,** for you yourself have taught me. How sweet are your **words** to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your **precepts;** therefore I hate every wrong path. Your

word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous **laws**. I have suffered much; preserve my life, Lord, according to your **word**. Accept, Lord, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws. Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your **law**. The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your **precepts**. Your **statutes** are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. My heart is set on keeping your **decrees** to the very end. I hate double-minded people, but I love your **law**. You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your **word**. Away from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the **commands** of my God! Sustain me, my God, according to your **promise**, and I will live; do not let my hopes be dashed. Uphold me, and I will be delivered; I will always have regard for your decrees. You reject all who stray from your **decrees**, for their delusions come to nothing. All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross; therefore I love your **statutes**. My flesh trembles in fear of you; I stand in awe of your **laws**. I have done what is righteous and just; do not leave me to my oppressors. Ensure your servant's well-being; do not let the arrogant oppress me. My eyes fail, looking for your salvation, looking for your righteous promise. Deal with your servant according to your love and teach me your **decrees**. I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your **statutes**. It is time for you to act, Lord; your **law** is being broken. Because I love your **commands** more than gold, more than pure gold, and because I consider all your **precepts** right, I hate every wrong path. Your **statutes** are wonderful; therefore I obey them. The unfolding of your **words** gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. I open my mouth and pant, longing for your **commands**. Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name. Direct my footsteps according to your **word**; let no sin rule over me. Redeem me from human oppression, that I may obey your **precepts**. Make your face shine on your servant and teach me your **decrees**. Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for your **law** is not obeyed. You are righteous, Lord, and your **laws** are right. The **statutes** you have laid down are righteous; they are fully trustworthy. My zeal wears me out, for my enemies ignore your words. Your **promises** have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them. Though I am lowly and despised, I do not forget your **precepts**. Your righteousness is everlasting and your **law** is true. Trouble and distress have come upon me, but your **commands** give me delight. Your **statutes** are always righteous; give me understanding that I may live. I call with all my heart; answer me, Lord, and I will obey your **decrees**. I call out to you; save me and I will keep your **statutes**. I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your **word**. My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your **promises**. Hear my voice in accordance with your love; preserve my life, Lord, according to your **laws**. Those who devise wicked schemes are near, but they are far from your **law**. Yet you are near, Lord, and all your **commands** are true. Long ago I learned from your **statutes** that you established them to last forever. Look on my suffering and deliver me, for I have not forgotten your **law**. Defend my cause and redeem me; preserve my life according to your **promise**. Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek out your **decrees**. Your compassion, Lord, is great; preserve my life according to your **laws**. Many are the foes who persecute me, but I have not turned from your **statutes**. I look on the faithless with loathing, for they do not obey your **word**. See how I love your **precepts**; preserve my life, Lord, in accordance with your love. All your **words** are true; all your righteous **laws** are eternal. Rulers persecute me without cause, but my heart trembles at your **word**. I rejoice in your **promise** like one who finds great spoil. I hate and detest falsehood but I love your **law**. Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws. Great peace have those who love your **law**, and nothing can make them stumble. I wait for your salvation, Lord, and I follow your **commands**. I obey your **statutes**, for I love them greatly. I obey your **precepts** and your **statutes**, for all my ways are known to you. May my cry come before you, Lord; give me understanding according to your **word**. May my supplication come before you; deliver me according to your **promise**. May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your **decrees**. May my tongue sing of your **word**, for all your commands are righteous. May your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your **precepts**. I long for your salvation, Lord, and your **law** gives me delight. Let me live that I may praise you, and may your **laws** sustain me. I have strayed like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your **commands**." **Psalms**