

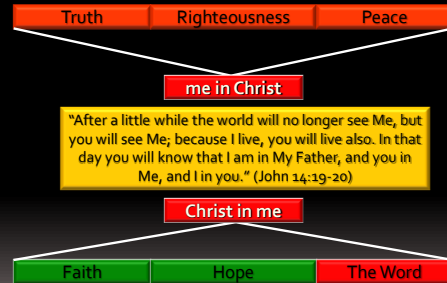
## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

- **Matthew 7:24-27** – The Wiseman Builds his house on **Truth**
  - **John 14:6** – Way, Truth, Life
  - We are to build our lives on the truth of the gospel.
  - Faith acts on what is true. (**Rom 10:17**)
  - "The just shall live by faith" (**Rom 1:16,17**)



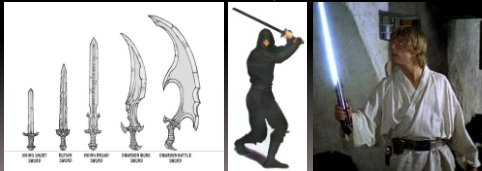
The Just	By Faith	Shall Live
The Way	The Truth	The Life

## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT



## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

- Ephesians 6:17** – "the sword of the Spirit"
- "Sword" – only offensive piece of the armor!
  - What is a sword used for?
    - Hand to hand combat – protection from an enemy
    - Offense and defense.
  - **How does one become an expert with a sword? PRACTICE**



## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

1. "the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word** of God."
  - "the **word** of God"
    - "word" here is  $\rho\eta\mu\alpha$  – specific sayings concerning Jesus
    - *rhēma* – that which is or has been uttered by the living voice, thing spoken, a word; a series of words joined together into a sentence.
    - A declaration of one's mind made in words.
    - **Romans 10:17** – the foundation of our faith!
    - Active use of the sword of the Spirit as the word of God has almost vanished in everyday Christianity.
    - How often do you quote a verse in response to a lie?
    - What has happened to bring this tragic reality to the church?

## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

"...the enemies of the Bible have tried to destroy its significance through intellectual attacks or ridicule. In our own time, the primary means of attack has been to undermine its significance in the minds of people, to attack and ridicule the Bible in the media, in the arts, in schools and universities, and even in churches that practice a liberal, humanistic theology. With clever words and subtle arguments, the devil speaks through people of prominence and intelligence to blunt, twist, and disable the testimony of the Scriptures."

(Stedman, *Spiritual Warfare*)

## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  1. Modern views of scripture
    - Approaches to the Bible have been dominated not by Truth but by the predominant philosophical views of the day.
    - Most Biblical Criticism began with the Enlightenment – reason and Baconian methodologies became the standard
    - **The Modernist (Liberal) view**
      - Typically rejects the idea that the Bible is divinely inspired in a unique way. Some go so far as to regard the Bible as purely a product of human invention.
      - Rudolf Bultmann and Walter Brueggemann

## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  1. Modern views of scripture
    - **The Neo-orthodox view**
      - Summarized by saying that the Bible is "the word of God" but not "the words of God". It is only when one reads the text that it becomes the word of God to him or her.
      - The Bible contains demonstrable errors (in matters of history and science, at least) and therefore full inerrancy cannot be sustained with any kind of intellectual integrity.
      - Karl Barth and Emil Brunner

## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  1. Modern views of scripture
    - **The Modernist (Liberal) view**
    - **The Neo-orthodox view**
    - "It is true that no Christian who believes that the Bible errs can hold that the Bible *alone* is his authority for faith and practice. He must hold to some other authority or criterion as well. That authority, I am not embarrassed to say, is his own mind, his own ability to reason." (Stephen T. Davis, *The Debate about the Bible: Inerrancy versus Infallibility*)

## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  1. Modern views of scripture
    - **The Orthodox view**
      - The Bible as originally given by God was free from error. Scripture was completely authoritative and trustworthy in all that it asserts as factual, whether in matters of theology, history, or science.
      - Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, Earl Radmacher, Carl Henry, JI Packer, John Warwick Montgomery, James Montgomery Boise, Francis Schaeffer, RC Sproul, Norman Geisler, and Gleason Archer.

## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  2. Inspiration – "God breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16)
    - **Plenary Inspiration** – that kind of inspiration which excludes all defect in the utterance of the inspired message.
    - **Verbal inspiration** – that kind of inspiration which extends to the very words and forms of expression of the divine message.

## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  3. Inerrancy
    - **Inerrant vs. Infallible** – "The Bible is inerrant if and only if it makes no false or misleading statements on any topic whatsoever. The Bible is infallible if and only if it makes no false or misleading statements on any matter of faith and practice." (Stephen T. Davis, *The Debate about the Bible: Inerrancy versus Infallibility*)
    - **Objective vs. Subjective Inerrancy**
      - Subjective inerrancy emphasizes the need to understand the text from the author's point of view – grammatical and historical context.
      - **Matt 13:31-32** – "this is smaller than all other seeds"

## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  - So what? – there is overwhelming evidence for the plenary and verbal inspiration and, by extension, the subjective inerrancy of the Word of God!

## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

3. Using the Sword of the Spirit.
  - Scripture will equip us!
    - **2 Timothy 3:16,17** – all scripture
    - **2 Peter 3:16** – all is scripture.
  - We need to know the written Word (*rhema*) to know the living Word (*logos*)
    - **Hebrews 4:12** – the Word of God is...
    - **2 Timothy 2:15** – “handling accurately”
  - How do we handle the Word accurately?
    - **Matthew 4** – “it is written”
    - Do we know where to find certain verses that are relevant to where you are being attacked?

## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

3. Using the Sword of the Spirit.
  - The great warning!
    - **Hebrews 4:2** – “the word they heard did not profit them”
    - **John 5:39,40** – “you are unwilling”
    - “The reason the Bible is powerful is that it is not the mere words of men, however insightful they may be, or even (do not misunderstand me here) the unique and inerrant Word of God, as important as that is. It is because God speaks to people through the Bible by the Spirit of Christ, and because that Word is life-giving and life-transforming.” (James Montgomery Boise, *Romans*)

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  - The *rhema* reveals the *Logos* and the *Logos* illuminates the *rhema* – you can't have one without the other!

rhema

logos

Truth

Life