



Meeting Notes: The Sword of the Spirit
(January 22, 2014)

These notes capture our January 22, 2014 meeting. We opened our meeting in prayer and then began our evening. In an effort to facilitate God's goal for the group and make the lesson more practical and application based, I took a different approach this week. Rather than just giving information, we completed a T-Time and an illustration. Topic notes from the evening may not be in the order discussed during group, and they are not intended to cover everything discussed. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. General notes follow each topic that was discussed.

GOD'S GOAL for the Group: For us to learn how to apply the Word to our lives.

CURRENT VISION: "The Year of Maturity: Learning how to hear with ears of faith that we may be doers of the word and not hearers only." Scripture Reference: Mark 4:24.

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

Closing the Loop:

- **Pride vs Ego.** Our sister, who looked up the difference in the two shared her findings. For her, the homework assignment helped her recognize a major growth opportunity in her life. For the group, it was interesting that *pride* was positive in nature, whereas *ego* was not, because the Bible uses the word *pride*. Therefore, I took a moment and looked up a couple uses of *pride* in Strong's Exhaustive concordance and found *arrogance*. Thus, at first glance, it seems what the world calls *ego*, God calls *arrogance*, and it is translated as *pride*. **Takeaway.** Make sure we operate according to God's definition of pride and how He views us, because even what the world considers "healthy pride" can quickly go awry in God's kingdom!
- **Update on our progress with our visions.** Some visions are finalized; others are not, but we're all in some stage of developing one.
- **Tools to help apply the Word.** Those with smartphones were encouraged to download Strong's KJV (iPhone) or MySword Bible (Android). **Takeaway.** As we learned in discussing the homework assignment, looking up the original definition(s) can help provide greater understanding to the meaning of a word and the message the author was communicating; however, not being students of these languages, we have to be careful to not read too much into a definition.

Memory Verse: Hebrews 4:12 – "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 discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (NKJV)."

Discussion Topic: Vision – The Sword of the Spirit

- **Summarizing the Homework assignment:** The sword is considered an offensive weapon. It's what we need to use when the devil tempts us (as in when he tempted Jesus in the wilderness), and we have to stay in the Word so **when** persecution comes, we will be ready to counterattack with the Word of God! In other words, we don't go looking for a fight, but we use our sword as a weapon to attack when the fight comes to us.
- **Preparing for our application exercises:**
 - **Examining Ephesians 6:17.** We noted the connection between the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. The two are linked with the sword being dependent upon the helmet! **Takeaway.** Our thoughts determine the effectiveness of our sword!
 - **Direction.** While preparing for group, I originally asked God, "What is the purpose of the Word; however, I didn't receive an answer until I asked, "What is the purpose of the armor?" This question led me to 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 and Ephesians 6:10-13. As I looked at these verses, two themes emerged: what happens internally and what happens externally? During group, we approached those themes in relationship to the armor. After group, God redirected me to my original question. Thus, these Notes capture the essence of the meeting, while including the new revelations!
- **Application exercises:**
 - **T-Time:** The original T was entitled *Aspects of the Armor*; however, based on the new question, the T has been renamed *Aspects of the Word*. The updated T and the explanation are attached. To summarize, the left side of the T identifies the **internal** purpose of God's Word and the right the **external** purpose. **Internally**, we plant the seeds of God's Word in our heart, allowing it to renew our mind and change how we think! **Externally**, we learn how, like Jesus in the wilderness, to respond with revelation knowledge provided by the Holy Spirit to defeat the devil and the spiritual forces we battle, rather than fighting against people and the circumstances we see. **Takeaway.** The word prepares us internally and equips us externally for battle!
 - **Sword Exercise:** In **Ephesians 6:17**, Paul describes a two-edged sword we can use to defeat the devil. The word for "two-edged" is *machaira*, which literally translates as "two mouths." However, the two-edged sword was not the Roman soldier's original sword. They began with the one-edged *gladius* sword, but after a major defeat and trying other swords, they switched to a two-edged sword. In our exercise, we drew out how both edges of our sword are formed. One edge is the written word of God (*logos*), and the other edge is the revelation knowledge (*rhema*) we get

when the Holy Spirit gives us just the right Word for a given situation.¹ These moments can best be described as “aha moments,” when you just “get it!” The understanding we get from an “aha moment” bridges the gap between the two edges to form the blade! A great visual image is to imagine you are holding a knife. Each edge is sharp, but understanding forms the width of the blade. A more in-depth explanation with a general rendition of our drawing is attached. **Takeaway.** The *logos* word from God’s mouth forms one edge of our sword; the *rhema* word from our mouth forms the second edge, and understanding forms the blade between the two edges!

- **Nuggets:**

- We discussed the importance of knowing the Word. When Jesus was in the wilderness, Satan tried to tempt Jesus using the Word; therefore, we have to allow the Holy Spirit to give us the strategic word for that moment that will defeat Satan. This goes back to what we frequently ask, “What Word are you standing on?”
- Someone asked how can we increase our “aha moments” with the Lord. Hebrews 11:6 tells us God rewards those who diligently seek Him, so if we want more “aha moments,” we should start by diligently seeking God! For faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

Homework Assignment: Familiarize yourself with *Wearing the Armor* (attached).

Next Meeting: The intended topic is “The Journey Between *Logos* and *Rhema*.”

Closing: We closed our meeting in prayer with a time of need-specific prayer for the challenges that were lifted up, for the group overall, and as the Holy Spirit led.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, or would like to be added to or removed from the email distribution for the meeting notes, please email us at wow2@wow2women.com or complete a Contact Form on our site wow2women.com.

¹ Rick Renner, *Dressed to Kill: A Biblical Approach to Spiritual Warfare and Armor*, (Tulsa: Teach all Nations, 1991).



**ATTACHMENT: T-TIME - ASPECTS OF THE WORD
(As Related to Spiritual Warfare)**

	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
Purpose:	2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (v4-5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull down strongholds • Cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God • Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ 	Ephesians 6:10-13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand against the wiles of the devil (v11) • Withstand in the evil day (v13)
Weapon:	Hebrews 4:12-13(v12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word of God 	Ephesians 6:17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sword
Application:	Romans 12:2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renew our mind 	John 14:26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow the Holy Spirit to be our Teacher
Summary:	To prepare for spiritual warfare, the Word exposes what's in our heart; we must then act upon what's been exposed to renew our mind and wear our armor with full confidence in Christ Jesus.	To be equipped for battle, we must be fully armored, not lacking any piece, and being led by the Holy Spirit so we can defeat the spiritual forces that come against us.

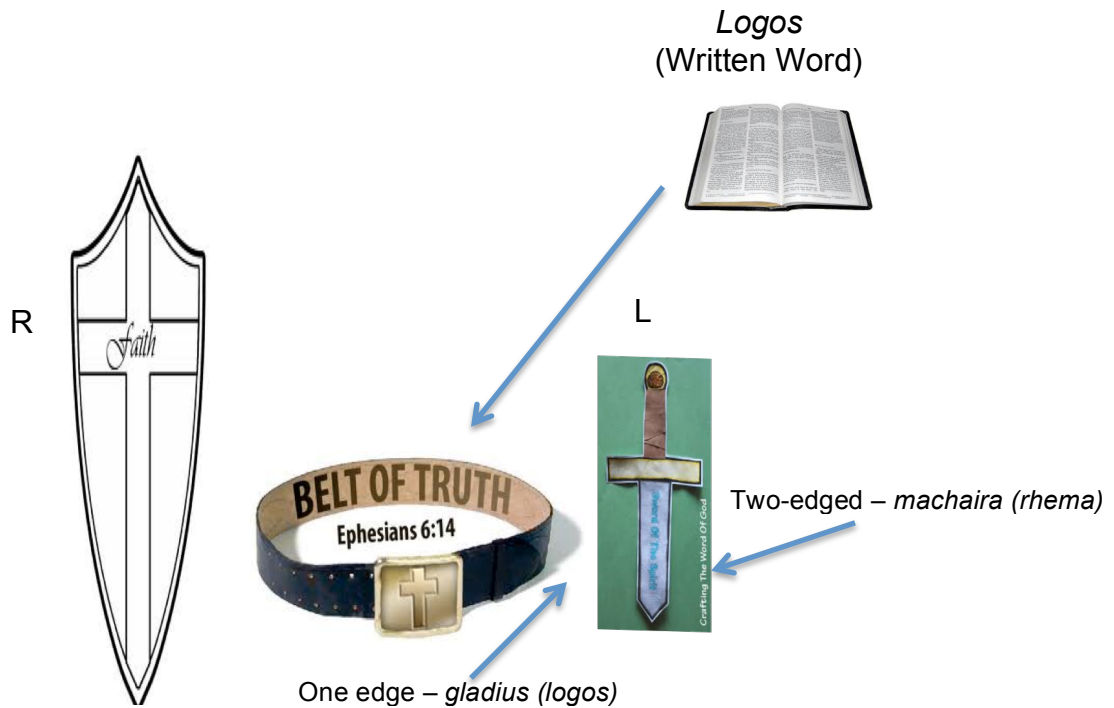
Explaining the T: (all Scriptures come from the NKJV)

- **Left side (Internal):**
 - **Purpose.** **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** identifies our weapons of warfare are not for fighting each other, but to pull down, cast down, and bring thoughts to Christ! **Takeaway.** In warfare, the Word is to change how we think!
 - **Weapon.** **Hebrews 4:12** tells us the “**word of God**” is “sharper than any two-edged sword...and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (NKJV). Thus, we begin the process of changing our thoughts by planting the seeds of God’s Word in our heart, allowing it to show us what God already knows, because “all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of

Him to whom we *must* give account” (v13) (NKJV). **Takeaway.** What’s going on inside us really is between God and us alone, because He is the One to whom we give account!

- **Application. Romans 12:2** teaches us to be “transformed by the renewing of [our] mind, that [we] may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (NKJV). **Takeaway.** Applying the Word to our internal lives should result in a renewed mind that knows God’s will!
- **Right side (external):**
 - **Purpose. Ephesians 6:10-13** reiterates that our fight is not against people, but against spiritual forces, and it also teaches us to use the armor of God for the specific purposes of “[standing] against the wiles of the devil” (v11) and to “withstand in the evil day” (v13). **Takeaway.** The internal purpose (standing against the wiles of the devil) has to be complete in our lives before the external purpose (withstand in the evil day) can be fulfilled.
 - **Weapon.** Since the sword was our discussion topic, we only focused on **Ephesians 6:17**, which tells us “And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word of God** (NKJV) (emphasis added). **Takeaway.** The helmet and the sword are linked—what’s in the mind determines what we do with the Word of God.
 - **Application. John 14:26** teaches us the Holy Spirit is our Helper, and it is He who teaches us all things Jesus said to us—that which is in the written word of God (*logos*). Ultimately, the Holy Spirit takes the written Word of God and makes it come alive, so it is no longer *logos*, but *rhema* (revelation knowledge) we can apply during spiritual warfare to defeat the devil! A great example of this is Jesus in the wilderness; He responded with the appropriate Word based on what the circumstance the devil presented Him with. **Takeaway.** The Holy Spirit is the One who helps us know how to apply the Word to our daily lives.
- **Key points:**
 - The Word has to be operating internally for the fruit to be seen externally. Therefore, no matter how upset we get when someone reminds us of something we’re already working on, what happens with the Word internally isn’t complete until others can witness an external change!
 - Internally the Word works on the soil of our heart; externally, it produces the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.
 - Plants develop roots internally, but they blossom externally. When the Word is rooted internally, the fruit of the Spirit blossoms externally.

ATTACHMENT: THE SWORD EXERCISE
(Ephesians 6:17)



Explaining the illustration:²

- We started by drawing the Bible in the upper right hand corner of the paper. This represents our Bible, the written Word of God (logos). Unfortunately, the written word is just words to us until we embrace them and walk them out!
- Next, we drew our belt of truth in the middle of the page and drew a line from the logos Word to the belt. This represents our embracing the written word when we read and study, thereby putting on the belt of truth! What we put in our belt is what we plant in our heart!
- We then drew our sword of the Spirit on the left side of the belt (as though we were wearing the belt and facing someone). Next, we labeled the edge closest to the belt, because, once we plant the written word (*logos*) in our heart, we have a one-edged *gladius* sword. This type of sword was very heavy and cumbersome to use, causing the Roman soldier to tire more quickly. Also, the dull edge of the sword could only wound the enemy, but not defeat him.

² The placement of the sword and the shield along with other details about the armor are based on Rick Renner's description in *Dressed to Kill*. A complete footnote can be found on page 3.

- We then drew our shield of faith on the right side of the belt, because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17). The more we speak God's Word, the more we hear His Word, and the more we water the seeds of His Word already planted in our hearts. As we exercise our faith, we learn how to use our two-edged *machiara* sword.
- Lastly, we labeled the second edge of our sword, which is formed when the Holy Spirit provides revelation knowledge (*rhema*) by giving life to the written Word (*logos*) planted in our heart! If you've ever had an "aha moment," you've received revelation knowledge from the Holy Spirit! This type of sword, the *machaira* sword, was a two-edged weapon with a very sharp tip the Roman soldier used to rip out his enemy's guts!
- To better understand the two edges of the sword, we must understand the word *machaira*, translated two-edged in both Hebrews 4:12 and Ephesians 6:17, literally means "two mouths." Thus, for us to have a *machaira* sword, the Word has to be spoken from two mouths! God's written Word (*logos*) came from God's mouth—the first time the Word was spoken—giving us one edge of our sword. As with the *gladius* sword, without the Holy Spirit working in our lives, the written Word can feel heavy and cumbersome, causing us to tire more quickly when the devil brings onslaught upon onslaught! Even though we may wound the devil with the *logos* word, we will not defeat him! HOWEVER, as we allow God's Word to fulfill its internal purpose in our lives (change how we think), our new thought processes open our heart and mind to better hear from the Holy Spirit. When we have an "aha moment," and confess that revelation over our lives, we form the second edge of our sword and the very deadly tip we can use to totally defeat the devil in our life! If we want to speed up our "aha moments" from the Holy Spirit, we should diligently seek the Lord, for God rewards those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6 NKJV).



ATTACHMENT: REVIEW ON WEARING THE ARMOR³

ARMOR PIECE	PURPOSE	APPLYING	KEEPING IT ON
Belt of truth	It represents the Word of God and holds all the other armor pieces in place	Read, study, and meditate on the Word seeking understanding	Spending time in and planting the seeds of God's Word in our heart
Breastplate of righteousness	Protects the truth planted in our heart	Accept Jesus as our Lord and walk in His righteousness	Renew our mind and rid ourselves of sin
Shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace	Reconciles us and God and us and others	Receive forgiveness for our sins so we can be at peace with God and extend that peace to others	Walk in wisdom to pursue peace and avoid strife
Shield of faith	Protects us from the enemy's darts	Walk by faith and not by sight, trusting God and His Word	Prayer and time in the Word
Sword of the Spirit	Defeat the enemy	Plant <i>logos</i> in our heart that the Holy Spirit can turn into <i>rhema</i>	Ask the Holy Spirit to be our Teacher to bring understanding to the logos Word

³ This review was originally captured in our Meeting Notes entitled "Review" (October 8, 2013). This document can be found on the Meeting Notes page of the website: <http://wow2women.com/meeting-notes.html>.