

Today's Scripture: **Eph 6: 10-20**

We War Against Spiritual Powers by Spirit-Empowered Gospel Proclamation

Once you were **dead** because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. **He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.** All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. **Ephesians 2:1-3**

I. THE SWORD DESCRIBED

*In Paul one expects “the word of God” to refer to the message of the gospel, since that is the way he ordinarily uses this kind of language... in contrast to our own habits, Paul never uses this language to refer to Scripture. **God's Empowering Presence**, Gordon Fee, p. 728*

The stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make **the word of God** fully known... **Colossians 1:25**

Or was it from you that **the word of God** came? Or are you the only ones it has reached? **1Corinthians 14:36**

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received **the word of God**, which you heard from us, *you accepted it* not as the word of men but as what it really is, **the word of God**, which is at work in you believers. **1Thessalonians 2:13**

2. THE SWORD'S POWER

Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit." **John 3:6-8**

So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus....And when they had further threatened them, they let them go....And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:18,21,31**

Spiritual Enemies Gain Ground by Silencing Gospel Proclamation in Believers. Spiritual Enemies Lose Ground by Spirit-Empowered Gospel Proclamation in Believers

if I am casting out demons by the power of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. For when a strong man is fully armed and guards his palace, his possessions are safe— until someone even stronger attacks and overpowers him, strips him of his weapons, and carries off his belongings. "Anyone who isn't with me opposes me, and anyone who isn't working with me is actually working against me. **Luke 11:20-23**

