

The Sword and Its Swordsmen

Firstly, please understand that *the kingdom* of Jesus Christ was and is a **spiritual** one, rather than a *fleshly, earthly, or political* one, cf. John 18:36. Thus, His “servants” (or true *kingdom citizens/soldiers*) do not wage a *fleshly, earthly, or political* war. Such engagements were not and are not in keeping with the divine battle plan.

Secondly, note from 2Cor.10:3-4 that “*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.*” That is, our *armament* is **spiritual**, and is to be *taken up* in the **spiritual conflict** against “*speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God,*” and that the *objective* is to capture of “*every thought*” to “*the obedience of Christ,*” 2Cor.10:5. Therefore, geographic borders, earthly domains, and political causes are **not** the “*fortresses*” against which His *soldiers* fight. Such **entanglements** in “*the affairs of everyday life*” are neither the *duty* of a “*good soldier*” in “*active service*” of the Lord’s *army*, nor do they promote it, cf. 2Tim.2:3-4.

Thirdly, though given strong **defensive “full armor”** to “*resist*” and “*stand firm,*” the *infantry* in His *army* are provided with only one **offensive weapon** with which to wage war, “*the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,*” Eph.6:10-17. With it, we are expected to faithfully fight to “*persuade*” our counterparts in this epic battle with Satan, 2Cor.5:11. An example of this mighty *weapon’s* proper and effective use can be seen in Acts 17:17 and Acts 18:4.

To these ends, a few other pertinent details are herein provided for your consideration in *taking up* this our **weapon** of *spiritual warfare*...

The *sword* comes **pre-sharped** and **properly honed**. It needs no other *adjustment* or *modification* by the soldier for effective use. In fact, the *Manufacturer* forbids such, Gal.1:6-8; Rev.22:18-19! This *sword* is so *sharp* it is capable of “*piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart,*” Heb.4:12.

Thus it is **not the weapon** that needs preparation, but the **soldier** who would wield it. Such requires:

- **Diligence** in preparation, 2Tim.2:15a. Though the KJV’s translation of *spoudazo* as “*study*” is perhaps not the best rendering (it is only so utilized here, but is elsewhere translated as “*make every effort*” in 2Tim.4:9,21, “*eager*” in Gal.2:10, and “*diligent/diligence*” in 2Tim.2:15 and most other passages by the NASB), there is no doubt that the “*diligence*” required in this particular area involves preparation through *eager, consistent, and purposeful “study”* and “*examination*” of the *Scriptures/Sword*, cf. Acts 17:11. Know your *weapon*; it’s the only one you’re issued or need!
- **Approval/certification**, 2Tim.2:15b. Every *soldier* must meet the basic proficiency requirements with his *weapon* to be **approved** or **certified** to enter combat. In the *spiritual military*, such demands **familiarity** with its **origin** (1Cor.2:10-13), **all its working parts** (Rom.15:4; Gal.3:23-25), and its **proper intended use** (Rom.1:16).

- **Proficiency** as a workmen (or soldier/swordsmen), 2Tim.2:15c. However, the approval/certification detailed previously demands more than just prerequisite familiarity; it also requires **proficiency**. The soldier/swordsmen must not only be intimately familiar with this sword, he must be capable, able, and willing to use it! Swords left in the sheath do nothing to defend the kingdom (cf. Titus 2:9) or to offend the conscience and pierce the hearts of the opposition, cf. Acts 2:37-41.
- **Accuracy**, 2Tim.2:15d. The soldier needs to not only be able to properly identify the true enemy (cf. 2Cor.10:4-5, again), but also the **proper target**. This sword is **not** meant to be used as: a **utility knife** to “do it all,” as it has a *singular spiritual* purpose, cf. 1Tim.1:5; a **hatchet** for *chopping off* unwanted limbs (1Cor.12:14-25); nor as an **executioner’s ax** to dispatch offenders (cf. 3John 9-11). Instead, and always in a *graceful way* (Col.4:5-6), its target is to carve away the *false and foolish wisdom of the world* that others can see and appreciate the *true wisdom of God*, 1Cor.1:18-25; and it is to be wielded as “*the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes*,” Rom.1:16.

Fellow soldiers/swordsmen, never forget that “*our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world-forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places*,” and that “*the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*” (Eph.6:12,17b) is a mightily powerful weapon capable of conquering them all in this immortal conflict, **IF** it has swordsmen who are **prepared, approved, proficient, and pointedly accurate** in its use, cf. 2Cor.4:7!

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