Casting Down Arguments (series)

**3— THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**

(arguments, lies, high things, thoughts, fiery darts)

**Mark 11:23 (NKJV)** For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, **he will have whatever he says.**”

**2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (NKJV)** For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, **5** **casting down arguments** and every **high thing** that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity** to the obedience of Christ.

**I AM ADDRESSING THESE THINGS IN THIS SERIES:**

1. **DESTROYING LIES (double meaning)**
2. **THE SHIELD OF FAITH**
3. **THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**
4. **WINNING WITH WEAPONS OF WARFARE**

**I WANT TO TEACH YOU TODAY ABOUT “THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT”**

**Ephesians 6:11–17 (NIV)** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against **the devil’s schemes.** **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **13** 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. **14** Stand firm then, with **the belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**.

**IN LESSON ONE… “DESTROYING LIES”… I TAUGHT YOU ABOUT THE BELT OF TRUTH**

**Ephesians 6:14 (NIV)** Stand firm then, with **the belt of truth** buckled around your waist.

**JESUS PRAYED TO HIS FATHER IN JOHN 17:17…**

**John 17:17 (NKJV)** Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word **[logos]** is truth.

**“WORD” = LOGOS**

**Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)** The word **[logos]** of God is living and powerful.

**THE BELT OF TRUTH IS THE BIBLE… WE MIGHT SAY THE WRITTEN & ESTABLISHED WORD OF GOD… IT’S WHAT GOD HAS SAID… AND IT CAN NEVER BE BROKEN.**

**Psalm 119:89 (NKJV)** Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.

**John 10:35 (NKJV) [JESUS SAID]** ”The Scripture cannot be broken.”

**SO THE BELT OF TRUTH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF ARMOR BECAUSE, IN THIS WORLD OF LIES AND DECEPTION AND EXPERTS WHO TURN OUT TO BE DEAD WRONG, GOD GAVE US HIS WORD THAT WE MIGHT KNOW THE TRUTH.**

**OKAY, THEN WHAT IS THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT?**

**Ephesians 6:17 (NIV)** Take the helmet of salvation and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**.

**“WORD” = RHEMA [*HRAY·****MA***] = SOMETHING SPOKEN… A BRIEF STATEMENT… A SPOKEN WORD**

**THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT IS WHEN WE SPEAK OR VOICE THE WORD OF GOD.**

**Psalm 103:20 (ESV)** Bless the Lord, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, obeying the voice of His word!

**LET’S WATCH JESUS SPEAK THE WORD**

**Matthew 4:1–11 (NKJV)** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. **3** Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” **4** But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ” **5** Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ” **7** Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’ ” **8** Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9** And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” **10** Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ” **11** Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

**Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

**EX – When I was a teenager, I had an addiction I couldn’t break free from. I was bound with lust. I tried everything I knew. And the thoughts in my mind were tormenting me… saying… You’ll never be free… you’ll always have a hidden life… this will ruin your future marriage… you’ll one day be exposed and humiliated… you’ll never be able to play a significant part in God’s ministry.**

**BUT… ALONG WITH LISTENING TO MESSAGES THAT TAUGHT ME ABOUT THESE THINGS, I BEGAN PUTTING JOSHUA 1:8 TO WORK.**

**John 8:31–32 (NASB)** **[JESUS SAID]**  “If you continue in My word **[logos]**, then you are truly My disciples; **32** and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

**2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)** For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**AND AS I MEDITATED ON THESE VERSES… SPEAKING THEM OVER AND OVER… AND ADDING MY SHIELD OF FAITH (I’M A MAN OF GOD… FORGIVEN”)… MY THOUGHTS WERE TAKEN CAPTIVE… I COULD SEE IN MY HEART HOW TO OBEY GOD… AND I WAS COMPLETELY DELIVERED FROM THAT BONDAGE.**

**Isaiah 54:13 (NKJV)** All your children shall be taught by the Lord, And great shall be the peace of your children.

**EX – Years ago the enemy launched an all-out attack against one of our children… and the situation looked very bleak… and when the fear and torment came to my mind… I would say this verse and meditate on the fact that my wife and I are not our children’s only teachers… but God is teaching them… and He is an AMAZING teacher.**

**EX – Carole Ward shared that when she was a little girl, her father would not even let her and her siblings eat dinner until they said the scriptures they had been assigned to meditate on. He would say, “We can’t just feed our bodies… we need to feed our spirits too.”**

**AND THIS IS WHAT JESUS WANTS TO TEACH YOU TO DO.**