

The Sword of the Spirit

by Robert S Sims www.battlefocused.org/articles/sword-of-the-spirit/

The armor of God

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...” ([Ephesians 6:17](#))

“For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...” ([2 Corinthians 10:3–5, ESV](#))

The word of God is alive and powerful

“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. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” ([Hebrews 4:12–13](#))

“For you have been [born again](#), not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, ‘All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever.’ And this is the word that was preached to you.” ([1 Peter 1:23–25, NIV](#))

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” ([Romans 10:17](#))

“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” ([2 Timothy 3:14–17](#))

Will you be led by the Holy Spirit, or by the lusts of the flesh?

“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, **by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” ([Titus 3:4–7, ESV](#))

“But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him’ — these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. **Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.** And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.” ([1 Corinthians 2:9–13, ESV](#))

“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live

according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For **as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...**" ([Romans 8:12-16, NKJV](#))

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." ([1 John 2:15-17](#))

"And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**" ([Galatians 5:24-25](#))

"Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,** whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." ([1 Corinthians 6:19-20, ESV](#))

Spiritual Close Quarters Battle (CQB)



"Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,** having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation." ([1 Peter 2:11-12](#))

"I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, **warring against the law of my mind,** and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." ([Romans 7:21-23](#))

"Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off [the works of darkness](#), and **let us put on the armor of light.** Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**" ([Romans 13:10-14](#))

"...put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and **be renewed in the spirit of your mind,** and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." ([Ephesians 4:22-24](#))

“Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is **being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.**” ([Colossians 3:9–10, ESV](#))

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**” ([Romans 12:1–2, ESV](#))

“So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but **present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.**” ([Romans 6:11–13, ESV](#))

“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, ‘The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously’? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” ([James 4:4–8](#))

See also [The Armor of God](#).

Commentary - Spiritual Close Quarters Battle (CQB) Diagram



Legend

- Red – The created design of man ([Hebrews 4:12–13, Proverbs 20:27](#))
- Blue – External influences (See also [Maslow's hierarchy of needs](#))
- Yellow - Psychological development (See also [Maslow's hierarchy of needs](#))
- Green – Holy Spirit vs. Lusts of the flesh ([James 4:4–8, 1 John 2:15–17](#))

When born anew from above, the spirit of man may commune with the Spirit of God and understand the word of God. As he does so, his ego (that is, his sense of self) will be defined by his relationship with God, being conformed to His image, and his will directed by God's will. If not, his ego will be defined by and conformed to the values of his surrounding community and the natural world, and his will directed by "the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life".