**Armour of God 4: Sword of the Spirit and Praying at all times (Ephesians 6:10-20; Matthew 4:1-11)**

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Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. (Ephesians 6:17-20)

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mt+4%3A1-11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23211a)] by the devil.  After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.  The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. (Matthew 4:1-11)

**BIG IDEA:**

**If we want to live in Victory, we must obey the Lord’s Command: Ready, Aim, PRAY!**

Open the Bible and pray

Take …….. the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. (Ephesians 6:17–18)

Common word: Spirit

Transformation brings victory in our lives

# The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God that divides truth and lies in our minds



Spiritual warfare is waged in the mind. We use our mind to understand spiritual truths.

If we have the 5 pieces of armour without the sword, then we are a heavily armoured moving target.

With the sword, we can advance. The sword is both an offensive and defensive weapon, that is the double-edged sword.

Short sword for close quarters combat vs long sword.

There are three Greek words that describe word.

* Graphe – The physical medium (printed words).

As Scripture [Graphe] says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” (Romans 10:11)

* Logos – the Message

In the beginning was the Word [Logos], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

In this way the word [Logos] of the Lord spread widely and grew in power. (Acts 19:20)

Let the message [Logos] of Christ dwell among you richly … (Colossians 3:16)

If we say we love God, we must first love Jesus.

* Rhema – the World of God what imparts life to us, washes us, and transforms us.

…. cleansing her by the washing with water through the word [Rhema]… (Ephesians 5:26)

… the sword of the Spirit, which is the word [Rhema] of God. (Ephesians 6:17)

If you remain in me and my words [Rhema] remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (John 15:7)

Jesus is the reason for living

Rhema: to understand word of God - in our lives - transformation

Heb 4:12 (Logos); Matthew 4:1-11; John 16:13; John 14:25-26.

When we want to study life, we study biology - life (bio) and the reason of being (logos).

through whom all things came and through whom we live. (1 Corinthians 8:6b)

If we want to be transformed, we need to open the Graphe to read the Logos (the message).

but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Romans 12:2b)

For Logos to become Rhema, we need to pray for our mind to have understanding. Rhema means we can get the Word of God deep into our heart.

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

The Bible is active and alive. It is not just another book. On the other hand, do not treat the Graphe as magic. That is crossing the line of idolatry. Do not get stuck at the Graphe or Logos.

When we go through failures, we get depressed. That is a normal human response. When Pastor Chris was going through a tough time, a reading of Psalm 42:5 encouraged him. All the while, the verse as been a Logos to him. At that time, it became a Rhema to him.

Before we open the Bible, pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to change the Logos to Rhema so that our lives can be transformed.

# Prayer is the weapon of warfare for the Christians (Ephesians 6:18-20)

The command to the Christians is to Ready, Aim, and Pray!

## Pray in the Spirit (Romans 8:26-27) - to pray what God wants me to pray; ask for guidance what to pray

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.  And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27)

To pray in the Spirit is to pray according to how God wants us to pray, not how we wa nt to pray. We can pray in the flesh by telling God what to do. The Spirit can lead us into praying for a person, or a matter. Be obedient.

## Pray continually

All of us are called to pray. Praying is not a gift given to some people. It’s something every Christian should do. With prayer comes the gift of faith.

## Pray candidly

God gave us examples and suggestions how to pray. ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication) is a prayer format commonly suggested. We do not need to follow this pattern. We just talk to God what is in our hearts. It is all about relationship.

## Pray selflessly (for all the Lord’s people - v18)

Pray for others. Know their needs. We can read our WhatsApp messages and know what to pray. Social media is a good place to pray. If we still read the newspaper, pray as we read.

## Pray pastorally (also for me, that I make known the mystery of the gospel, declare fearlessly - v19)

Pray for our pastors. Pray for the pastors of other churches.

Conclusion: Renew your prayer and devotional life.

Sermon summary by Zhenli and Loong.