



Part
6

The Sword of the Spirit

This week Pastor John continued the series *Stranger Things: Winning the Battle with the Upside Down*. We are looking together at the struggle between good and evil and how to use each piece of the armor of God to resist the enemy. So gather with your Cathedral family on Zoom or other video platform and let's grow together.

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. 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.
Ephesians 6:12-13

1. The Roman sword was light, short and designed to be wielded easily with one hand while the other hand grasped the shield. Its size meant it could be drawn in close quarters, and its sharpened edges made it a threat to any enemy who got too close. A skillful soldier used it to deflect the blows of his enemy, and the Word of God must be used in this fashion.
2. We take up the sword of the Spirit when we study the scriptures and meditate on them. Are you taking up the sword of the Spirit by reading scripture daily? Are you meditating on Scripture all day long – pondering it and talking about it? What can you do this week to help you to study the Word?
3. Pastor John explained the difference between *logos* (written word) and *rhema* (spoken word). A rhema is a declaration that you get from the logos that encourages, lifts, or enlightens you. The sword of the Spirit is rhema that God uses in our lives to defeat the enemy.
4. When you memorize Scripture, later you can use specific verses to defeat the enemy. We get a picture of this when Satan attacked Christ in the wilderness (Matthew 4). To each of Satan's temptations, Christ responded with Scripture. What Scriptures have you memorized and used already to fight Satan when he tempts you? What kind of battle are you facing today?
5. Finish by reading Hebrews 4:12 and praying for everyone to be victorious.

Close in prayer