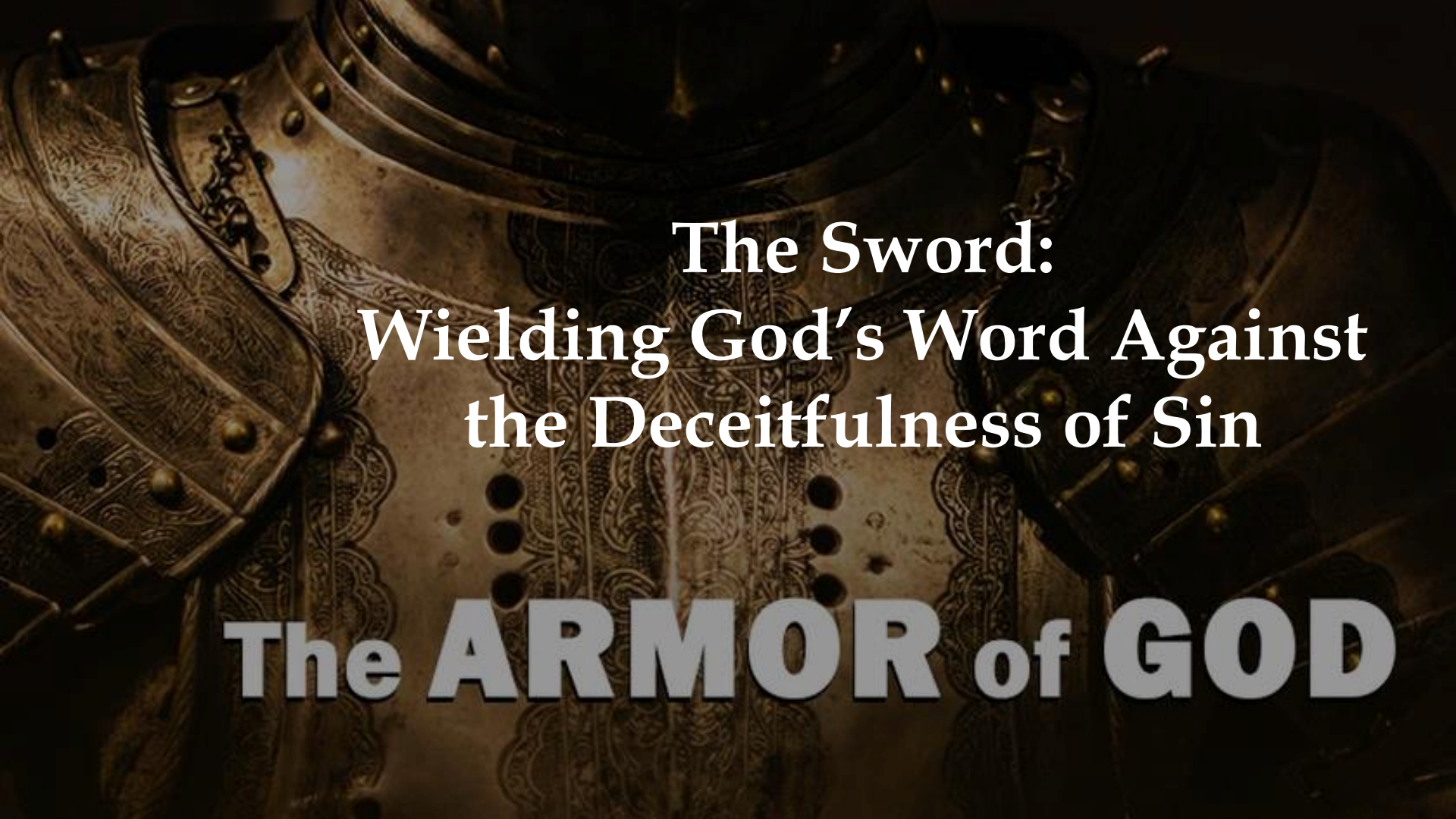




The Sword:
Wielding God's Word Against
the Deceitfulness of Sin

The **ARMOR** of **GOD**

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil ... Take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:11, 18).

-1-

The Word of God

A pair of glasses with thin, dark frames is positioned diagonally across an open Bible. The Bible's pages are aged and yellowed, with visible text in a serif font. The glasses' lenses are slightly out of focus, reflecting some light. Overlaid on the right side of the image, in a large, white, serif font, is the text 'Psalm 19:7-11'. The overall lighting is warm and soft, creating a contemplative atmosphere.

Psalm 19:7-11

(1) It's sufficient (vv. 7–9)

**David employs six terms,
to convey its fullness.**

(2) It's beautiful (vv. 7–9)

**David employs six expressions,
to convey its worth.**

(3) It's efficacious (vv. 7–9)

**It revives, instructs, rejoices,
enlightens, and endures.**

(4) It's desirable (vv. 10-11)

It's more precious than all riches.

**It warns, keeping us on the path of
wisdom.**

**It rewards, leading us to our greatest
delight.**

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The Sword of the Spirit

(1) Origin

**“No prophecy of Scripture comes from
someone’s own interpretation, for no
prophecy was ever produced by the will
of man, but men spoke from God as they
were carried along by the Holy Spirit”
(2 Peter 1:21).**

**This means that the words of Scripture
are the words of the Spirit.**

**“All Scripture is breathed out by God
and profitable” (2 Tim. 3:16).**

(2) Function

**“For the word of God is living and active,
sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing to the division of soul [will] and
of spirit [mind], of joints and of marrow,
and discerning the thoughts and
intentions of the heart” (Heb. 4:12).**

“And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account” (Heb. 4:13).

The body of the animal was laid bare to the priests when opened on the altar.

-3-

The Schemes of the Devil

“The devil is a very subtle enemy.”

William Gurnall

The White Witch
can “make things
look like what
they aren’t.”



She doesn't *terrify* but *entices*.

She doesn't *threaten* but *allures*.

She doesn't *shock* but *seduces*.

**“Satan disguises himself as an angel
of light” (2 Cor. 11:14).**

He doesn't want to awaken us from our slumber, and so he "makes things look like what they aren't."

His greatest weapon isn't the blatant temptation that shocks us but the subtle deception that slowly erodes our spiritual fortitude and discernment.

1. Satan deceives us by misrepresenting what God says.

**“Did God actually say?”
(Gen. 3:1).**

**The most effective lie masquerades
as the truth.**

He suggests that God wills our prosperity, not our adversity; prioritizes our happiness, not our holiness; overlooks sin rather than ordaining a narrow gate leading to a narrow way.

2. Satan deceives us by assuring us that we can sin with impunity.

**“You will not surely die”
(Gen. 3:4).**

He whispers to us: “It’s no big deal. It’s trivial.”

He minimizes sin’s consequences while maximizing its apparent benefits.

3. Satan deceives us by telling us what we want to hear.

**“For God knows that when you eat of it
your eyes will be opened, and you will be
like God, knowing good and evil”
(Gen. 3:5).**

Satan appeals directly to our desires.

**The promiscuous wants to hear that what
he does in private is his own business..**

**The materialist wants to hear that her
money is for her own personal use.**

**The idolater wants to hear that he can
serve God while pleasing himself.**

**The legalist wants to hear that God does
indeed keep score.**

**The lazy wants to hear that some sins are
mere trifles.**

**The embittered wants to hear that she has
a right to be angry.**

**The irresponsible wants to hear that
someone else is to blame.**

**“The Christian wrestles not with his
naked corruptions, but with Satan in
them. His access to our corruptions makes
the battle more terrible.”**

William Gurnall



The Sirens' Song

**“But each person is tempted when he is
lured and enticed by his own desire”
(James 1:14).**

Temptation begins with desire.

As a result of the fall, we live “in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind” (Eph. 2:3).

The “desires” of the flesh (or body) have
become the “lusts” of the flesh →
gluttony, sensuality, drunkenness, etc.

The “desires” of the mind have become
the “lusts” of the mind → envy, malice,
pride, ambition, greed, etc.

These desires “lure”
and “entice” us.



**They tell us the pleasure of sin outweighs
any negative consequence.**

**They promise us joy, power, delight,
and pleasure.**

**They insist that surrendering to
temptation is the means to happiness.**

It is the sirens' song!

But what do these desires really bring?

“Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death” (James 1:15).

Conception

Birth

Growth

Death

**Satan's chief strategy is to
distort and deceive.**

A photograph of four meerkats standing upright in a row on a reddish-brown dirt mound. They are all looking in different directions, demonstrating their watchfulness. The background is a soft-focus landscape with a blue sky and greenish-yellow ground. The text "Watchfulness" is overlaid in the center in a white serif font.

“Watchfulness”

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him” (1 Peter 5:8).

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Wielding the Word of God Against the Schemes of the Devil

**We refuse to believe Satan's perversion
of the truth.**

**We seek to “be transformed by the
renewal of [our] mind[s], that by testing
[we] may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and acceptable and perfect”
(Rom. 12:2).**

Metamorphosis



**We strive for such familiarity with God's
Word that it determines our desires,
judgments, dreams, and values.**

***“How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!”
(Ps. 119:103).***

This “sweetness” is an impression left upon our hearts, which gives us the ability to *relish* and *savor* spiritual things.

Constant Acquaintance

Continual Application

Consistent Adherence

**“Through your precepts I get
understanding; therefore, I have every
false way” (Ps. 119:104).**

Why is it necessary to hate sin?

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight” (Prov. 9:10).

“The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor” (Prov. 15:33).

Not only is godly fear what makes us
begin to be wise, but it's what makes us
continue to be wise.

**“This principle (or heart) of holiness
hates to offend God.” – Richard Baxter**

**Strengthened
by the Gospel**

Rom. 16:25–27



strengthen - *sterizo*

**“Between us and you a great chasm
has been fixed” (Luke 16:26).**

“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51).

Immovability

Unsettling Circumstances

We live in revolutionary times.

Overwhelming Temptations

We live in a decadent society.

Crippling Disappointments

We live in a fallen world.



Strengthened

Established

Fixed

1. The Source of Spiritual Strength

“him who is able”

“God’s dominion is total: He wills as He chooses and carries out all that He wills, and none can stay His hand or thwart His plans.”

J. I. Packer

2. The Result of Spiritual Strength

“the obedience of faith”

3. The Means of Spiritual Strength

**“according to my gospel and
the preaching of Jesus Christ”**