



February 15, 2026

UNITED: Ephesians 6:14-18 - Sword of the Spirit

SUMMARY: The sword of the Spirit shows that the Word and the Spirit work as one. The Spirit authored Scripture and uses it to guide, correct, and protect us, so any impression from God will align with the Bible. To wield that sword well, the Word must live inside us through memorization and steady dwelling, so truth rises naturally when trials come.

Scripture can be misused, as Satan did with Jesus, but Jesus countered lies with rightly applied truth. Science can explain mechanics but cannot answer questions of meaning, purpose, or moral truth—those are illuminated by the Spirit through the Word. Spiritual opposition is often a sign that light is advancing, and the sword becomes powerful in the hands of a believer whose life is shaped by Scripture and the Spirit.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:14–18, 2 Peter 1:21, John 14:26, John 6:63, Psalm 119:9, Isaiah 26:3, Deuteronomy 17:18, Psalm 119:11, Matthew 4:1-6, Matthew 12:31, Luke 9:62, Deuteronomy 6:16, Exodus 34:8, Deuteronomy 6:13, John 1:1

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. The sermon stressed that the Spirit and Scripture are inseparable, and spiritual impressions must be tested against the Word. Can you recall a time when you felt a "word from God" or an inner prompting? How did you (or how *could* you) test that impression against Scripture to ensure it aligned with God's revealed truth?
2. Memorizing Scripture was likened to "rumble strips" that keep us from careening into sin. What is one specific passage or verse you could commit to memorizing this week or month to help build those "fast spiritual reflexes"? What practical steps will you take to practice this memorization consistently?
3. Pastor Matt encouraged us to practice wielding the Word by writing down lies and countering them with precise verses, just as Jesus did. What is a common lie or temptation you face (e.g., "I'm not good enough," "God doesn't care," "I deserve this pleasure")? Take a moment to identify a specific Scripture that directly counters that lie. How can you make this a regular practice in your daily life?
4. The sermon challenged the idea that only the scientific method yields truth, pointing out that the Spirit illuminates realities like purpose and meaning. In what areas of your life do you find yourself looking for answers solely through empirical means, and how might you intentionally seek the Spirit's illumination through the Word instead?
5. Pastor Matt suggested that being attacked spiritually often signals that light is being opposed, not divine failure. Can you think of a past or current struggle where you might have mistakenly interpreted it as God's judgment, and how might reframing it as spiritual opposition change your perspective and response?



6. Jesus used specific passages from Deuteronomy to counter Satan's temptations. Are there particular areas of temptation or struggle in your life where you could proactively identify and "hide" relevant Scriptures in your heart, ready to wield them when attacked?

7. The sermon emphasized that unpracticed Scripture can cut you as easily as help you. What is one practical step you can take this week to move beyond a "flimsy acquaintance" with the Word towards having it as a "reservoir" within you? (e.g., consistent daily reading, journaling, engaging in a deeper Bible study, listening to Scripture audio).