

Armor of God Part 7

Steve Berger August 28, 2016

Review and Preview

- emphasized the spiritual aspects of the Armor of God over the natural or historical aspects — don't want us missing out on the spiritual
- last two items — “**Sword of the Spirit**” and “**Praying in the Spirit**”

God works in the natural by His Spirit

**God is spiritual — He's spirit, not natural, supernatural.
He's outside, above and beyond the natural,
but works in the natural by His Spirit!**

- **1 Corinthians 2:9-14**

But as it is written: “EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things 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 know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

*Application — God reveals what's ours **through the Spirit**... Believers have **received the Spirit** in order to know what's ours... Natural man (some Believers) thinks **spiritual is foolish** — misses out!*

Let's not miss out — let's believe, receive, respond to what Spirit is revealing, saying!

Sword of the Spirit — Word of God

- **Ephesians 6:17-18**

... and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

- **sword of Spirit**- not of human or natural logic, reason or intellect- **Spirit!**
- **word of God** — **logos**, written, general, historical;
rhema, spoken, present, specific

Application — the Sword of the Spirit is the rhema, spoken, present, specific, NOW word of God.

So important- any rhema word is going to be rooted in the logos, maybe word for word, at least the character of it, rhema never contradicts logos!

Application — *the Sword of the Spirit is a rhema word from God, in your present, specific situation, in order to accomplish the will of God*

Question — *What's the connection between the Sword of the Spirit and the Word, why did Paul do that?*

Answer — *There is a very intimate, powerful connection between the two, Bible starts with it...*

- **Genesis 1:1-3**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Application — *Spirit is present, hovering, moving... Word gets spoken... Light (will) happens...*

- **Hebrews 11:3**

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God...

- the Spirit is attending to and accomplishing the rhema word of God!

Following is *one of the many New Testament examples of the connection between the Spirit's Presence and activity, and a rhema word of God... this is Cornelius' house, Peter, and the Gentiles...*

- **Acts 20:42-47**

"And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *have*?"

Application — *while Peter was speaking rhema Word, rooted in logos, the Holy Spirit falls on Gentiles, speaking in tongues, magnifying God — again the Word and the Spirit working together, producing the miraculous!*

- **John 6:63**

The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

*Following is how the Spirit uses a **rhema** word that's rooted in **logos**...*

- **Virgin Mary**

- **Isaiah 7:14 — logos**

- Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

- **Luke 1:38 — rhema**

- Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."

- **Luke 1:35 — how**

- And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

Application — while minding her own business, Mary receives rhema, rooted in logos, that the Spirit would execute in order to produce the miraculous — same for us today!

- **Peter on Pentecost**

- **Acts 2:14-18**

- But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAYS GOD, THAT I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS. AND ON MY MENSERVANTS AND ON MY MAIDSERVANTS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT IN THOSE DAYS; AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY...'" (Joel 2:28-32)

- **Joel 2:28-32 — logos**

- "heed my words" as he explains "this is that" — **rhema**

Application — while making himself available, Peter receives rhema, rooted in logos, that the Spirit would use to win 3,000 souls and expand the Kingdom — same for us today!

- **Jesus being tempted**

- **Matthew 4:1-11**

- Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'HE

SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU,' and, IN THEIR HANDS THEY SHALL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU DASH YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD.’” Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.’” Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

- Deuteronomy 8:3, 6:16, 6:13 — **logos**
- “man shall not... but by every **word**” — **rhema**

*Application — while battling Satan, Jesus receives **rhema**, rooted in **logos**, that the Spirit used to defeat the devil. No wonder **rhema** is sword, it defeats the enemy!*

Best chance of receiving **rhema**, is knowing **logos**, otherwise we won't recognize word!

Rhema word of God is the Sword of the Spirit

- **Hebrews 4:12**

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.

Logos is living and powerful —

but when the Spirit takes it and makes it rhema specifically for you, in your present situation, so the will of God can happen...

- miracles happen like it did for Mary
- kingdom expanded like it did through Peter
- devils get defeated like it did for Jesus

SUMMARY

Rhema word of God is the Sword of the Spirit because it is a spiritual weapon that makes the miraculous, kingdom-expanding, devil-defeating, will of God happen in and through your life!

Good news

- **John 8:47**

“He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.”

**Everyone who is “of God”
has the capacity to hear rhema words from God**

ISSUE — are you too naturally-minded to receive and hear and experience what the Spirit is revealing to you?

QUESTION — Do you believe God **can** and **will** speak **rhema words** so you can **take the Sword of the Spirit** and be victorious? See miracles, expand the kingdom, defeat devils, have a God-given strategy, experience God in super-natural ways?

Close by drawing near, worshiping, repenting, hungering, praying, positioning ourselves to live a life of understanding and responding to rhema words.

GOD'S GOT A RHEMA WORD FOR YOU!

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between a **logos** word and a **rhema** word?
2. Can a **rhema** word from God ever contradict a **logos** word from God? Why or why not?
3. When does the **logos** word of God become **rhema** in your own life?
4. What can you do to allow that (**logos** to become **rhema**) to happen more often?
5. Do you believe God **can** and **will** speak **rhema words** so you can **take the Sword of the Spirit** and be victorious? See miracles, expand the kingdom, defeat devils, have a God-given strategy, experience God in super-natural ways?

**JOIN US
BEFORE THE THRONE: WORSHIP NIGHT**

Wednesday, August 31st

6:30 p.m. — Sanctuary