

RHEMA

I've noticed with increasing alarm too many Christians walking around like wounded bucks, plodding through the thicket of life weak and bloody, biding their time until it's their turn for glory and rest. What's the problem? Where is the triumph we are promised? What is the key to true and lasting spiritual victory?

We love God. We pray. We earnestly beseech Him to intervene in our lives and situations. As mothers we pray and ask Him to protect our children and draw them into a closer walk with Him. Our faith is at least the size of a mustard seed. But all too often we still end up feeling bruised, battered and defeated; our prayers seemingly powerless and ineffective.

Yet we are suffering unnecessarily. How God must weep! And while He weeps with compassion over our distress, I believe His greatest tears are shed because we don't understand how to use the weapons He has put at our disposal that will give us the very victory we cry out for! We might not realize it, but we have the most effective weapon of all. It's essential that we grab hold of it, especially where our children are concerned.

Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword." Curiously, the Greek translation of that phrase reads, "two mouthed." The Bible repeatedly refers to the Word of God as a "two-edged," or "two-mouthed" sword. The same word is used in Revelation 1:16 where we read, "And in His right hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword..."

There is significance to the sword coming out of Jesus' mouth rather than being held aloft in His hand as one would normally expect.

Ephesians 6:17 calls it, "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

The term "word" is the Greek word "rhema" which carries the idea of a quickened word, or a word of revelation that comes from God. It is not manufactured by us; rather, it is a gift from God.

Have you ever been reading along in your Bible and all of a sudden a Scripture jumps out and grabs you and you know came straight from God's heart to yours? Invariably, it's a word that He has quickened to you in answer to a specific question or situation. When that happens, He has just dropped a "rhema" into your heart and given you a promise to stand on.

The response God wants from us is to pray that rhema word, His living word, back to Him in faith. When we do, we are agreeing with Him for the solution we have been praying for. The word first came out of God's mouth and was written in the Bible. That's the first edge of the sword. Next, it needs to be spoken back to Him out of our mouths. That action creates the second edge. Now it becomes a sharp two-mouthed sword that we boldly wield in the power of the Spirit to gain victory in every situation!

2 Corinthians tells us, "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal (of the flesh), but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

What is all of this telling us? It's reminding us we need to remember who our enemy is and fight him with the word of truth. Ephesians 6:12 reads, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." It

is impossible to fight a spiritual battle in the strong arm of the flesh. We will be defeated every time. The evil one is too powerful for us but he is not too powerful for God! A spiritual battle must be fought in the spirit. We must wield the sword of the Spirit by praying God's words and promises back to Him. Then, in faith, we give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ who has destroyed the works of the devil and declare with Him, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (Matt. 28:18)

Galatians 4:7 gives us exciting news when it exclaims, "Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." We have been given the same authority to attack the devil with the word of God as Jesus did when He was tempted in the wilderness. As we speak with *His* authority, the only response he's allowed is to leave!

So let's determine not to sit idly by while the devil attempts to make mincemeat of us and our families! Let's join forces and agree with what the King of Kings and the Lord of Glory says and arm ourselves with the word of God. Then let's use that sword to stand strong against the enemy and allow God to initiate the victory we are looking for!