Before we go on in our study of the armor, we need to mention the perfect balance that exists in the armor of God. There are three offensive weapons, three defensive weapons, and one neutral weapon.

Three **defensive weapons:**

- The breastplate
- The shield
- The helmet

These weapons protect you and give you confidence and assurance so you can move forward in your spiritual growth.

Three **offensive weapons:**

- The shoes
- The sword
- The lance

These are weapons that enable you to enforce and demonstrate Satan’s already secured defeat.

The neutral weapon is the loinbelt which is representative of the Word of God. It is the central piece of armor that holds all of these other pieces together.
The Helmet of Salvation

The Roman soldier’s helmet was a fascinating and beautiful part of his armor. It was a flamboyant piece, very ornate and intricate. It was highly decorated with etchings and could even be formed into the shape of the head of an animal such as an elephant, horse, etc.

Very often there was a large plume of brightly colored feathers or horsehair that stood straight up out of the helmet.

These helmets were very heavy and designed to protect not only the head but also the cheeks and jaws. They often had padding on the inside to ease the massive weight on the head.

These helmets undoubtedly made the Roman soldier very noticeable.

Why would the Holy Spirit compare a piece of weaponry like this to salvation?

Because your salvation is the most gorgeous, most intricate, most elaborate, and most ornate gift God ever gave you!

Remember, the more noticeable the soldier’s helmet was, the better.

When a person is confident of his salvation – and when he is walking in the powerful reality of all that salvation means for him – that person is noticeable!

Why was this helmet so important? Their enemies carried a battleax that we designed to take off your head. If the soldier did not have on his helmet – he was sure to lose his head.

If you don’t walk in your salvation and all that your salvation entails, you may feel the brunt of the enemy’s battleax coming to attack your mind and steal your victory.
Your enemy wants to chop the multiple benefits and blessings of your salvation right out of your belief system. He'll whack away at your spiritual foundation, trying to tell you that healing, deliverance, preservation of mind, and soundness are not really part of Jesus’ redemptive work on the Cross.

To face the adversary without your helmet of salvation is the equivalent of spiritual suicide!

Never forget, the devil comes to attack your mind!

We must learn about our salvation and find out all that it includes:

- We must spend time studying what the Bible has to say about who we are in Christ
- We must spend time studying what the Bible has to say about healing
- We must spend time studying what the Bible has to say about our deliverance from evil powers
- We must spend time studying our redemption and its beneficial consequences in our lives

This is what someone who has on the helmet will think like:

- When you are walking in the full knowledge of your salvation, you think and talk like a saved man or woman!
- When your mind is renewed with the Word of God concerning all the blessings contained in your salvation, you think and talk like a saved man or woman!
- When your mind is filled with the goodness of God because salvation is tightly wrapped around your mind, you think and talk like a saved man or woman.

When you “walk” in the helmet of your salvation, you think like God thinks, you reason like God reasons, you believe like God believes and you act like God acts!
Battles will come but they will not come every day.

**God has given us spiritual weaponry so that when battles do come, we will be prepared to maintain our victorious position over Satan.**

These lessons are not designed to help you run around looking for the devil under every bush and behind every door. It is designed to help equip you so that when battles do come, you are prepared to stand against them.

**Ephesians 6:17 NKJV** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

There were five different swords that the Roman soldier could carry.

1. **Gladius Sword** – extremely heavy, broad shouldered sword with a very long blade.

   Of the swords, the gladius was the most aesthetically beautiful, however, it was the most cumbersome and awkward to use.

   It was referred to as the *two-handed sword* as it required both hands to use it against the enemy.

   After a terrible defeat by the Carthaginians, the Romans abandoned these swords and adopted a smaller sword similar to the ones the Carthaginians used to defeat them.

2. **Second Sword** – was shorter and narrower. It was approximately 17” long and 2 ½ “ wide and much lighter and easier for the soldier to use.

3. **Third Sword** – even shorter than the second one and almost looked like a dagger and not a sword. It was carried in a small hidden scabbard beneath the soldier’s outer coat and was used to inflict a mortal wound in the heart of the enemy.
4. **Fourth Sword** - was a long and very slender sword and was used more in sport than actual combat. It was similar to a fencing sword.

5. **Fifth Sword** – (What Paul had in mind in Ephesians 6). It was the Greek Word “*machaira*”. It was approximately 19 inches long and both sides were razor sharp making it more dangerous than the other four. The tip was curved slightly upward and was used to gut the enemy causing his entrails to come out upon removal.

This particular sword was a terror to the imagination of the soldier’s enemy.

The reason Paul used this particular weapon in referring to the “Sword of the Spirit” is because it has the potential to rip our foe to shreds.

He goes on to say “…*which is the Word of God*…”

This is taken from the Greek Word “*Rhema*” which is a very familiar word used in the New Testament. It describes something that is *spoken clearly, spoken vividly, spoken in undeniable language, and spoken in unmistakable, unquestionable, certain and definite terms.*

The word carries the idea of a “quickened word” such as a word of Scripture or a “word from the Lord” that the Holy Spirit supernaturally drops into a believer’s mind thus causing it to supernaturally come alive and impart special power or direction to that believer.

**John 14:26 NKJV** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

*A rhema word* is a specific word or message that the Holy Spirit quickens in our hearts and minds at a specific time and for a specific purpose.
When this happens, it floods our spirits with faith because the Holy Spirit has spoken to us in a way that is clearly spoken, unmistakable, undeniable, unquestionable, certain and definite.

One expositor translated this scripture, “The sword that the Spirit wields as He draws forth a special word from God.”

Like the other pieces of armor that God has given us, the sword and the loinbelt are inseparable.

The loin belt held the shield on the right side and sword hung from a clip on the left side of the loinbelt.

A Rhema word quickened to your heart and mind by the Holy Spirit is as strong and powerful that it is as if God put a supernatural sword in your hand.

*Rhema* words are both given and supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit to enable you to withstand the adversary’s spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical attacks.

You might say that the written Word of God, the Bible, is like the *gladius* sword of a Roman Soldier, capable of making a sweeping blow against the enemy. On occasion, however, we need a specific *rhema* word – a smaller, two-edged sword – to deal the enemy a fatal blow.

Vegetius, the famous fourth-century Roman historian said, “…A stroke with the edges, though, made with ever so much force seldom kills, as the vital parts of the body are defended by both bones and armor. On the contrary, a stab, though it penetrates but two inches, is generally fatal…”

Many people mistakenly think that they must memorize the entire Bible before God can use them or speak to them.

It is not necessary for a person to know the entire Bible in order to have the “sword of the Spirit” at his disposal.
A specific *Rhema* word for the Lord does not have to be long and complicated in order to be valid. Although, the Holy Spirit can speak a lengthy personal word about our lives, however, this is the exception and not the rule.

Most great men and women of God who have earned a place in the pages of history have done so by obeying a single, simple word from God.

- Noah’s instructions about something as catastrophic as the flood were brief and very simple.
- Abraham’s instructions to leave his family and walk with God was a mere 75 words long.
- Joseph received a word about his destiny through two short dreams.
- Moses instructions to deliver the Children of Israel were relatively short considering the scope of what he was to do.
- Mary’s word through the angel Gabriel about the birth of the Messiah was only eight verses long.
- Paul’s life was dramatically changed one day on the Road to Damascus by three simple sentences.

The reason we enjoy many of our spiritual blessings today is that godly men and women obeyed the simple, specially spoken *Rhema* words they received from the Lord.

What is a two-edged sword?

**Hebrews 4:12 NKJV** (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.

**Revelation 1:16 NKJV** He had in His right hand seven stars, *out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword*, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.
Revelation 2:12 NKJV "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

Read notes from Sparkling Gems from the Greek by Rick Renner:

The phrase “two-edged” is taken from the Greek word distomos and is unquestionably one of the oddest words in the entire New Testament. Why is it so odd? Because it is a compound of the word di, meaning two, and the word stomos, which is the Greek word for one’s mouth. Thus, when these two words are compounded into one (distomos), they describe something that is two-mouthed! Don’t you agree that this seems a little strange? So why would the Bible refer to the Word of God repeatedly as a “two-edged sword” or, literally, a “two-mouthed sword”?

One sharpened edge of the sword came into being when the Word of God initially proceeded from the mouth of God. The second edge of the sword is added when the Word of God proceeds out of your mouth!

This is why meditation and confession of the Word of God are so important. You are adding to the reservoir of God’s Word you have stored up on the inside of you and the Holy Spirit can pull one of those scriptures up out of your inner man. Then as that verse begins to fill your mind and come out of your mouth, it becomes a two-edged sword.

The vital work of studying, meditating, and praying releases the Word to become a part of your own inner being.

But stopping short of confessing the Word of God keeps the Word from becoming that two-edged sword and will keep you from the victory you desire.
Your *rhema* – that word you need from God today – hinges entirely on the presence or absence of the written Word of God in your life.

Jesus had to do this very thing.

**Luke 4:1-4 NKJV** Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, (2) being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. (3) And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." (4) But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD OF GOD.' "

The Holy Spirit was able to draw a *rhema* word for Jesus because Jesus had spend a tremendous amount of time in the written Word of God.

We must do the same thing!

**People who receive frequent rhema words from the Lord are people who have made the logos, the written Word, a central part of their lives.**