

## Devotional for April 30, 2021 – Sword of the Spirit

By Major Brian Coles



### Devotion: Sword of the Spirit

Is your Bible a “sword” or a butter knife???

The breastplate and helmet are for protection. The shoes help a soldier gain ground. The shield is something to stand behind. But the sword is for attacking and inflicting damage.

So we want to sharpen our sword. We want to study it and know the weight of it. We want to know how it works and how it moves. And most importantly, we want to know how we are going to use it. Paul says that the Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit.

Charles Swindoll tells how many years ago in New York a doctor by the name of Evan O’Neill became convinced that most major operations could be performed while patients were under a local anesthetic, thereby avoiding the risks of general anesthesia. On February 15th, 1921, he operated on himself and removed his own appendix while under a local anesthetic. The operation was a success and it was said that he recovered faster than usually expected of patients who given general anesthesia.

Today I invite you to undertake some self-exploratory surgery of the soul. While fully conscious and fully aware, allow the Holy Spirit to assist you by handing you the only instrument you need for soul surgery – the germ-free scalpel [sword] of Scripture. “The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Heb. 4:12).

Self-examination/self-exploratory surgery of the soul – it's not just an interesting idea, it is a required command of Scripture: "But let a man examine himself / let a woman examine herself." (1 Cor. 11:28, NKJV). In God's presence right now, ask yourself: Am I honest? Am I a person of integrity? Can my word be trusted?

Remember, only you can do this surgery on your soul – only you. No one else but you knows the truth about yourself. You can rationalize and twist the facts and no one will know the difference – except you. And remember, too, there can be no wisdom without morality, no expertise in living without truth and honesty. The wise are those who have integrity.

So, what shape is your sword in? Is it polished from daily use? Has it been sharpened on the anvil of experience as you have applied and obeyed its truth in your life? Or, is your sword dulled from disobedience? Is it rusty from lack of preparation?

It has been said that a Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.

Prayer:

Father, we realize that when truth is not within us there is as much pain as with a diseased appendix. Help us see this tension as Your wake-up call. By Your Word, and through Your Spirit, right now cut away in us all that is untrue and dishonest.

And so today, we take up the Sword of the Spirit. We arm ourselves with Your Word. We hide Your Word in our hearts. We choose to believe Your truth over Satan's lies. We choose this day to STAND on Your living and active Word. For Jesus' sake. Amen.