

The Perfect Weapon

The Sword of the Spirit

By Rev. Joseph Kostelnik, Ph.D.

The Perfect Weapon

The Perfect Weapon
The Sword of the Spirit

Copyright ©1991 by Gospel Truth Ministries.
Revised Edition Copyright ©2004 by Gospel Truth Ministries.
Cover Sword Drawing by Unknown Artist.

All Rights Reserved.

ISBN: 1-59196-651-5

Printed in the United States of America.

Prophetic Voice Publications

<http://www.gtm.org/pvp/>

Gospel Truth Ministries
P.O. Box 1885
Cincinnati, OH 45201-1885
USA

<http://www.gtm.org/>



TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Pointed Parable	5
The Coming Darkness	7
The Sword of the Lord	13
The Sword of the Spirit	19
Wrestling and Winning	29
Making it Work	41
It Works!	45
The Next Step...	47

The Perfect Weapon

A Pointed Parable

The house is dark.

Everything is quiet.

Suddenly, there is a rustling downstairs.

Carefully, the husband makes his way to the first floor. He switches the light on as he passes by. To his utter dismay, the entire downstairs is a shambles. Eyeing the room from left to right, he realizes his home has been burglarized.

Expensive belongings are gone.

Precious heirlooms are missing.

Everything remaining of any worth is damaged beyond repair. He feels violated, frightened, confused.

A phone call to the local authorities brings nothing but a promise of an attempt to apprehend the thieves. Maybe they will be caught... maybe they won't.

He is advised to take better "precautions" next time.

Next time?

The Perfect Weapon

How can he really be certain that there will be no “next time?”

He realizes—to his horror—he is not exempt from a “re-run.”

After discussing various options with his family, the man decides to opt for the advice of a friend: arm himself with the perfect weapon for the occasion.

The next time a robbery is attempted—should there be a next time—he will be “armed and battle ready.” The loaded gun, coupled with his ability to use it, will assure his and his family’s protection from uninvited “guests.”

This story illustrates a great biblical truth. If we are to wage and win spiritual warfare with the enemy of our souls, we, too, must be “armed and dangerous.”

The scriptures describe a well-oiled machinery of evil—the devil along with principalities and powers—arrayed against us in the “heavenlies.”

They are deceptive and determined. They are dedicated and diabolical. We cannot safely “lay down and play dead” in the light of the “evil day” being foisted upon us by the adversary and his minions.

The Body of Christ, the Church of the Living God, must both stand against the enemy as well as withstand him. To do this will require the “whole armor of God,” particularly the “Sword of the Spirit.”

If we can but understand the Bible teaching regarding it, we will discover—to our advantage and the devil’s defeat—we, indeed, possess the “Perfect Weapon.”

The Coming Darkness

“**S**urely Lord Yahweh will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. The lion hath roared, who will not fear? Lord Yahweh hath spoken, who can but prophesy” (Amos 3:7-8)?

I wasn't planning on hearing a word from God about America. I was simply praying in the church about the needs of the congregation and the outreaches of our ministry. In the midst of this time of intercession and waiting upon the Lord, I had a vision. It seemed America was spread out before me. The Holy Spirit spoke to my heart:

There is coming a time of darkness upon this nation.

I saw a mist of blackness enveloping the land, but there was a light in the eastern Midwest. The Lord then spoke some things to me about my ministry (some I don't feel free to mention). One of them was that He was wanting to rally a group of Spirit-filled believers to wage and win spiritual warfare. At this point, I saw other “points of light” in the nation, particularly in the southwest (my guess would be in/near Arizona). Needless to say, I was quite shaken and continued to pray for more revelation about the situation. The entire experience was very interesting to me in that I was just then working on a book concerning spiritual warfare: *this book!* Although I have known, preached and written about the truths contained within these pages since 1978, recently I have felt compelled to produce a brief, concentrated study of this one,

particular aspect of the subject.

Presidential Prophecy

While I was considering the events of the morning, I remembered a book I had read over 10 years ago which detailed a vision purportedly given to President George Washington during the Revolutionary War. In the vision, Washington was given detailed accounts of the course and culmination of three major conflicts affecting this country: the war America was currently engaged in, the Civil War, and a third conflict, one which would be the most severe and devastating. This experience was published in the U.S. war veterans' paper *The National Tribune* (now *The Stars and Stripes*) in December 1880 and again in Dec. 21, 1950. Apparently, the first president recounted his experience to one Anthony Sherman, who then related it to publisher, Wesley Bradshaw, who subsequently printed it.

Following is the last portion of the vision:

Washington's Vision

“Again I heard the mysterious voice (of the angel) saying, ‘Son of the Republic, look and learn.’ At this the dark, shadowy angel placed a trumpet to his mouth, and blew three distinct blasts; and taking water from the ocean, he sprinkled it upon Europe, Asia and Africa.

“Then my eyes beheld a fearful scene. From each of these continents arose thick black clouds that were joined into one. And through this mass there gleamed a dark red light by which I saw hordes of armed men. These men, moving with the cloud, marched by land and sailed by sea to America, which country was enveloped in the volume of the cloud. And I dimly saw these vast armies devastate the whole country and burn up the villages, towns and cities which I had seen springing up.

The Coming Darkness

“As my ears listened to the thundering of the cannon, clashing of swords, and the shouts and cries of millions in mortal combat, I again heard the mysterious voice saying, ‘Son of the Republic, look and learn.’ When this voice had ceased, the dark shadowy angel placed his trumpet once more to his mouth, and blew a long and fearful blast.

“Instantly a light as of a thousand suns shown down from above me, and pierced and broke into fragments the dark cloud which enveloped America. At the same moment the angel upon whose head still shown the word ‘UNION,’ and who bore our national flag in one hand and a sword in the other, descended from the heavens attended by legions of white spirits. These immediately joined the inhabitants of America, who I perceived were well-nigh overcome, but who immediately taking courage again, closed up their broken ranks and renewed the battle.

“Again, amid the fearful noise of the conflict I heard the mysterious voice saying, ‘Son of the Republic, look and learn.’ As the voice ceased, the shadowy angel for the last time dipped water from the ocean and sprinkled it upon America. Instantly the dark cloud rolled back, together with the armies it had brought, leaving the inhabitants of the land victorious.

“Then once more, I beheld the villages, towns and cities springing up where I had seen them before, while the bright angel, planting the azure standard he had brought in the midst of them, cried with a loud voice: ‘WHILE THE STARS REMAIN, AND THE HEAVENS SEND DOWN DEW UPON THE EARTH, SO LONG SHALL THE UNION LAST.’ And taking from his brow the crown on which blazened the word ‘UNION’ he placed it upon the standard while the people kneeling down said, ‘Amen.’

“The scene instantly began to fade and dissolve, and I, at last saw nothing but the rising, curling vapor I at first

beheld. This also disappeared, and I found myself once more gazing upon the mysterious visitor, who, in the same voice I had heard before, said, 'Son of the Republic, what you have seen is thus interpreted. Three great perils will come upon the Republic. The most fearful for her is the third. But the whole world united shall not prevail against her. Let every child of the Republic learn to live for his God, his Land and Union.' With these words the vision vanished, and I started from my seat and felt that I had seen a vision wherein had been shown to me the birth, the progress, and destiny of the United States."

Prophetic Perspective

I want to make one point very clear at this juncture. Whether or not the prophetic word I received relates to the vision of George Washington (assuming it, itself, is accurate and authentic) or not, do not miss the central point of this book.

The principles of spiritual warfare outlined in this study are applicable in any "evil day" or period of darkness, spiritual, political or economic. They relate internationally, nationally, ministerially or personally.

As I meditated upon Washington's vision, I went back to my notes for the book. I read and re-read the sixth chapter of Ephesians, more often in my Greek New Testament than any English translation. Of course, Paul drew his imagery for the "spiritual armor" from Isaiah, chapter 59. Almost absent-mindedly, I leafed through that familiar prophetic portion. However, when I finished the chapter, instead of stopping, for some reason, I kept reading. This is what immediately follows Isaiah's outlining of a time of spiritual warfare:

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of Yahweh is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but Yahweh shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the nations shall come

to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising" (Isa. 60:1-3).

These verses—indeed the entire chapter—speak of Israel shining brightly with the glory of God in the very midst of gross, spiritual darkness. While this is the clear immediate interpretation of this passage, we must remember that there can also be various “applications” of a spiritual truth. Indeed, the Lord used Isaiah 60:1 as a word from God to a young Morris Cerullo when He called him into the ministry of apostolic evangelism. Likewise, the Holy Spirit must have applied Isaiah 49:6, a verse specifically directed to the nation of Israel, to the apostle Paul and his company, according to his testimony in Acts 13:47. How encouraging to see that a spiritual giant of the stature of Paul lived his life in much the same way as we do, deriving comfort, encouragement and guidance from the written Word of God, quickened and applied by the Holy Spirit.

Although there is certainly a literal, national Israel, the Bible also speaks of “spiritual Israel,” or the Church of the Living God, composed of all those who have been born again through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Rom. 2:28-29; Gal. 3:27-29; 6:15-16).

I prophesied in several churches in several countries, including a large Word of Faith church in London in 1988, that God was doing a “new thing.” I stated that historically there had been a “new move” of the Spirit about every generation (40 years), from the Azusa St. outpouring in the early 1900’s to the “Voice of Healing” revival of the late 1940’s to the “new thing” beginning in the late 1980’s. In 1989, while conducting a crusade in Athens, Greece, the Lord spoke to me about the 90’s. He said the Church must be “under the influence” of the Holy Spirit in this historic decade (see my book, *You Must Be Drunk!*). He also said as the world sunk lower and lower in the natural, the Church had the unparalleled opportunity of rising higher and higher in the spiritual! The world would get darker while the Church got brighter!

The Perfect Weapon

Certainly, by application, Isaiah's prediction can become a prophetic possibility for the Spirit-filled Remnant in America, as well as in other nations of the world. The blessings described in Isaiah, chapter 60, can be realized by churches, ministers, ministries and groups of dedicated, spiritual warriors everywhere and anywhere God chooses to raise them up.

Will *we* count ourselves in that group? Will we don the "armor of light?"

Will we take our places as soldiers in God's Army, wage and win spiritual warfare, and, having overcome all the works of the adversary, remain victors on the field?

The Sword of the Lord

“**S**o he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life” (Gen. 3:24).

Here is the first instance in the Word of God of the appearance of the “Sword of the Lord.” Remember, this verse of scripture follows the “fall of man” from the grace of God. Lest the man and woman reach forth and partake of the Tree of Life, Yahweh stationed angelic hosts at the east of Eden to protect it from His now sinful human beings.

Let me give you a literal translation:

“So He (Yahweh) drove (permanently) out the adam; and He made to dwell at the east of the garden of Eden the cherubim, and the Sword—the Flaming One—which one is constantly turning every way, to keep the way to the tree of Life.”

Young’s translation renders it:

“and the flame of the Sword which (Sword) is turning itself around...”

Notice, in this rendering, the almost "animate" or living quality ascribed to the “Sword of the Lord.”

It was used of Yahweh Elohim to guard the ultimate blessing:

union with the Uncreated Life of God, Christ (see my book, *Light for Living*).

The “Sword of the Lord” provided both judgment of sin as well as protection of the Blessing of God symbolized in the Tree of Life.

The entire Trinity is involved here. The Son is pictured in the Tree of Life; it is the Father Who pronounces and produces judgment.

And what of the “Sword of the Lord?” This is the Holy Spirit.

Balaam

The second appearance of the "Sword of the Lord" is recorded in the book of Numbers. Here we read of the sin of Balaam and the judgment of the Lord.

"Yahweh's angel stood permanently in the way for an adversary against him" (Num. 22:22, Heb.).

"And the ass saw Yahweh's angel standing in the way, and his sword being drawn in his hand" (Num. 22:23, Heb.).

This is known—in theological jargon—as a “Christophany,” or a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ. Notice the intimacy of the “Sword of the Lord” to the Angel of Yahweh: it is in His hand. Again, this situation depicts a Divine discipline meted out against a false prophet. It reveals a context of “spiritual warfare.”

The ensuing pages of scripture reveal God's tender care of His Chosen People in that the prophet can only bless the Israelites and not curse them as he had been instructed by Balak, the enemy of God's people.

Thus, in the book of Genesis, the “Sword of the Lord” is

The Sword of the Lord

wielded by angelic hosts (plural) and in the Book of Numbers we see a further development: it is now in the Hand of the Son of God!

When Balaam's spiritual eyes were opened, he "*bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face*" (Num. 22:31). The following verses make it abundantly clear that the prophet was in the Presence of the Son of God, Himself, Whose Word he was to deliver undiluted and unaltered (Num. 22:35).

Joshua

Again, we see an example of the "Sword of the Lord" in the history of the Children of Israel. After being supernaturally delivered from bondage in Egypt, they had crossed the Jordan, ready to begin the conquering of Canaan under the leadership of Joshua. It should be remembered that Almighty God had promised the Israelites He would send an Angel before them to prepare the way (Ex. 23:20-23). Now, they were about to do battle with the inhabitants of Jericho the key city of the Promised Land before there.

"And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there is standing a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, nay; but as captain of the armies of Yahweh am I now come" (Josh. 5:13-14).

Here again we see the intimate connection between the "Sword of the Lord" and the pre-incarnate Christ. It is He, alone, Who must wield this mighty weapon of God in spiritual battle. The Master declared to Joshua that He was the Captain of the angelic hosts of Yahweh. The battle plan, in this instance, depended upon the Israelites circling the city by faith and then blowing trumpets and shouting in faith at Joshua's command. Of course we all know the result: "the walls came a' tumblin' down!"

The Perfect Weapon

In the natural, circling a city's walls 13 times is not the preferred method of military victory. But the Israelites were not operating in the natural. They were walking "in the Spirit."

Their victory was by faith; so must ours be.

Gideon

The story of Gideon is one of the most interesting along this line. You will recall that the nation of Israel was in bondage to the Midianites due to sin and idolatry. However, in response to the cries of the people, the Lord again sent a deliverer. Yahweh's Angel (the Lord Jesus) appeared unto him, commissioning him to lead the people in battle. Lest the nation mistakenly believe it was by their might or power that deliverance had come, Yahweh "pared down" their forces from 32,000 to 300!

How could so few defeat so many?

As we consider a time of darkness coming upon this nation, we may be tempted to wonder the same. But let us remember, "God and one are a majority." Just the other morning during our prayer meeting at the church, the Holy Spirit spoke a prophetic word:

"Think it not strange that I have called the few to change the many. Have I not always done so? Did I not use one man—Jonah—to change an entire city and nation?"

So, you see, our Lord is not limited; He can save by many or by few.

The important point for us to remember in this light is the battle plan God authorized.

According to the man of God (Gideon), the three companies of 100—each man armed with a trumpet and an empty pitcher with a lamp inside—were to blow the trumpets, break the pitchers

The Sword of the Lord

and shout: the Sword of Yahweh, and of Gideon.

And what was the result of this *unusual* military offensive?

“The three companies blew the trumpets, and broke the pitchers, and held the torches in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands with which to blow; and they cried, ‘the sword of Yahweh and of Gideon.’ And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled” (Judg. 7:20, 21).

“And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and Yahweh set every man’s sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host” (Judg. 7:22).

Why such a spectacular victory?

The right leader (Gideon).

The right army (God’s).

The Perfect Weapon.

What did the trumpet blast signify?

In the Old Testament the sound of the trumpet was used in a variety of ways: to gather the people for battle or for holy convocations as well as to remind them of previous times of victory and deliverance.

And the pitchers, broken to release the light?

According to Gideon, this was the “Sword of Yahweh.”

We have already seen the Spirit of God as a Sword of Flame in the Garden of Eden. Isaiah speaks of the Holy Ghost as the “Spirit of burning,” (Is. 4:4). In the New Testament, Jesus is spoken of as baptizing His people in the Holy Ghost and *fire*, (Mt.

The Perfect Weapon

3:11). And on the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the waiting, infant Church, one of His manifestations was “tongues like as of *fire*” (Acts 2:3).

There are various other Old Testament references to the “Sword of the Lord;” invariably, they speak of judgment. His prophets are said to “slay the wicked” with their words. Indeed, heathen nations, used by Yahweh for the chastisement of His People—are spoken of as His “Sword.”

“And say to the land of Israel, thus says Yahweh; ‘behold, I am against you, and will draw forth my sword out of his sheath, and will cut off from you the righteous and the wicked. Seeing then that I will cut off from thee the righteous and the wicked, therefore shall my sword go forth out of his sheath against all flesh from the south to the north: that all flesh may know that I Yahweh have drawn forth my sword out of his sheath: it shall not return any more’” (Ezek. 21:3-5).

The Holy Spirit is, indeed, the Perfect Weapon.

The Sword of the Spirit

“**A**nd the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:17).

We have seen the truth in the scriptures concerning the “Sword of the Lord” as It appears in the Old Testament. We have discovered that the Holy Spirit has always been the “Perfect Weapon” in spiritual warfare for the People of God. We have also noticed the intimate connection between this Sword and the Second Person of the Trinity, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is He Who wields this mighty Weapon.

With Christ

When we come into the New Testament, we see this situation amplified. By comparing scripture with scripture, we arrive at the correct interpretation of this most important subject.

“And he has in the hand—his right one—seven stars: and out of the mouth—his—goes a sharp two-edged sword” (Rev. 1:16, Gk.).

Observe the subtle change described by John in this verse from the Revelation. Instead of the Sword appearing in Christ’s Hand, in this era of the Spirit, it is in His Mouth.

“And out of the mouth—his—goes forth a sharp sword, that with it he should be smiting the nations” (Rev. 19:15, Gk.).

The Perfect Weapon

“And the rest were slain with the sword of him, the one that sat upon the horse, the sword which is proceeding out of the mouth—his—and all the fowls were filled with the flesh—theirs” (Rev. 19:21, Gk.).

These verses depict the glorious Second Coming of Christ and His destruction of the beast, the false prophet and the armies gathered together against Israel at Armageddon. Again, the Sword is intimately connected with the Person of Jesus and is His instrument of judgment. The apostle Paul describes this same scene:

*“And then shall the lawless one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with **the spirit of the mouth—his**, and shall destroy with the manifestation of his coming” (II Thess. 1:8, Gk.).*

Here, the Sword of Revelation is identified as the Spirit of God in Christ’s mouth. Again, the identity of the “Sword of the Lord” is made clear: it is the Holy Spirit. At the Father’s order, the Son wages and wins spiritual warfare through the Person of the Holy Spirit.

HalleluYah!

With the Saints

We come now to one of the most important portions of our study.

The only reference to the “Sword of the Spirit” appears in Paul’s description of the believer’s “spiritual armor” in Eph. 6:10-20. And it is here that the confusion enters in.

First of all, we should remind ourselves that Paul drew his imagery for the “whole armor of God” from Is. 59:16-21.

“And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor” (Isa. 59:16).

The Sword of the Spirit

God's People were in bondage to sin and unbelief and the need was someone to "stand in the gap:" an intercessor.

The scripture goes on to describe how Yahweh Himself will don the armor and do the battle for His people (Isa. 59:16-18).

"When the enemy shall come in like the flood, the Spirit of Yahweh shall put him to flight" (Isa. 59:19, Heb.).

And how is the Lord going to do this battle, be this "man" and serve as "intercessor?"

Through the ministry of the "Sword of the Lord," the Holy Spirit!

"As for me, this is my covenant with them, says Yahweh; my Spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, says Yahweh, from henceforth and forever" (Isa. 59:21, Heb.).

How does the "Sword of the Lord" operate with the saints? By the Holy Spirit being "upon" us and His "words" being in our mouths.

In other words, these verses predict the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the "prayer language" of "other tongues" flowing through the Spirit-filled People of God as "rivers of living water" (Jn. 7:37ff.).

Notice there is no reference to the Bible, the written Word of God, in Isaiah's prophecy. The ministry of intercession and the Person of the Holy Spirit are his subjects.

If we can grasp, clearly, what has been discussed thus far, we shall have no difficulty interpreting Paul's statements about the "Sword of the Spirit" in Eph. 6:17.

The Perfect Weapon

Let me first make clear some very important facts.

As far as I can determine, there are three “traditional” views concerning the “Sword of the Spirit” in the Church world.

- The most common is that the Bible—the written Word of God—is the “Sword of the Spirit.”

However, the Bible is not Paul’s subject: the Holy Spirit is.

- Another view is that the “Sword of the Spirit” does not mean the entire Bible, but, rather, a portion (chapter, verse, etc.) of the Bible—a “rhema”—quickenened to the believer at a particular time of need (see Vine’s Expository Dictionary).

However, a “Spirit-quickenened” portion of the Bible, the written Word of God, is not Paul’s subject: the Holy Spirit is.

- Still another view is that the “Sword of the Spirit” refers to a “prophetic word” (prophecy, revelation, word of knowledge, etc.), given directly by the Holy Spirit during spiritual warfare.

However, “prophetic words” are not Paul’s subject: the Holy Spirit is.

If we can correctly identify the “Sword of the Spirit,” and then learn how to wield it, we can be more than conquerors in every spiritual conflict we face. After all, every other article of armor is defensive, enabling us to “stand” or keep safe what we already have gained in the Lord. Only one weapon is offensive, enabling us to “withstand” or take new ground from the enemy. The Perfect Weapon is the “Sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.”

The Truth

Jesus has told us it is the knowledge of the Truth that sets us free. How important it is that we know the Truth about this most important subject!

I first discovered the true interpretation of Paul's words in Eph. 6:17 while pastoring a small, denominational congregation. I was preaching the "full gospel," the saints were dedicated, yet it seemed "victory" was still eluding us. Since God had blessed us with all we needed for victory (see Eph. 1:3ff.), and the saints were consecrated to His will, there remained only one "missing link;" the place of the enemy of our souls.

One evening, as I was studying Eph. 6:10-20 in an interlinear Greek New Testament, I noticed the editor (Dr. Alfred Marshall) had placed an asterisk by the Greek word translated "which" in the text, "and the sword of the Spirit *which* is the word of God." At the bottom of the page, the footnote read, nonchalantly, "neuter, agreeing with 'pneuma' (Spirit), not feminine to agree with 'maxairan' (sword)."

I sat still for a moment, then chills broke out on my spine as the truth exploded in my spirit. According to God's inspired Greek text, the apostle Paul was saying, "and the Sword of the Spirit, which (*Spirit*) is the Word of God."

Let me explain.

There is a rule in Greek grammar which says that a relative pronoun ("*which*") must agree in number (singular or plural) and gender (masculine, feminine or neuter) with its antecedent (the word it modifies; see *Dana & Mantey's Greek Grammar*, p.122).

In the Greek text of Eph. 6:17, "sword" is feminine, "Spirit" is neuter, but "which" is neuter, modifying "Spirit," not feminine to modify "sword."

Sure enough, as I consulted various other translations, this interpretation was solidly confirmed.

“Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the Spirit as your sword (that is, the word of God)” (Moffatt).

“And take salvation for your helmet, and for your sword the Spirit, which is the voice of God” (Goodspeed).

The translation of Dr. Frank C. Laubach, Ph.D., the famed theologian, missionary, linguistics expert and champion of literacy is the clearest:

“To protect your head, put on the helmet of God’s saving power. For your sword, take God’s Spirit, which is his word” (Laubach).

These verses are absolutely faithful to the original text. While some aspects of Greek exegesis are open to various interpretations, others are somewhat like mathematical tables in their exactness.

This is one of those.

The amazing fact is that this is exactly opposite what “Christianity” has believed and taught for 2,000 years! And yet the Truth has been there the whole time!

Majoring Minors?

Is this a moot point, an exercise in needless theological hairsplitting?

It all depends.

Paul says,

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit,

The Sword of the Spirit

which is the word of God, by means of all prayer and supplication, praying at all times in the Spirit” (Eph. 6:17-18, Gk.).

This “hairsplitting” is not important if:

- The Bible is the same as the Holy Spirit.
- Quoting the Bible is the same as praying in “other tongues.”

The differences should be obvious to the careful reader.

Even though the context—both of the Old Testament background and Paul’s immediate discussion of the “spiritual armor”—confirms our contention, this truth is still a little hard to see due to our common use of the English language.

Casually reading Eph. 6:17, we naturally ask, “How can the Spirit be our sword as well as the word of God?”

Perhaps another verse might help us a bit.

This phrase in Eph. 6:17 is what is known in Greek as a “genitive of apposition.” A similar construction occurs in Jn. 2:21. The Master had challenged the Jews to “destroy this temple” and in three days He would raise it up (Jn. 2:19). In consternation they informed Him the temple had already been under construction for 46 years. They were incredulous as to how He could accomplish this feat.

John gives the interpretation:

“But he spake concerning the temple of his body” (Jn. 2:21, Gk.).

Obviously, in this verse, the “temple” and “body” are one and the same. It is the same construction Paul uses in Eph. 6:17, “the sword of the Spirit which (Spirit) is the word of God.”

Another stumbling block in understanding this vital teaching concerns the phrase “word of God.”

Quite naturally we question, “How can the Spirit *be* the word of God?” mistakenly thinking Paul’s subject is the Bible.

Two words are normally used of the Bible, the written word of God, in the scriptures: *logos* (Heb. 4:12) or *graphee* (II Tim. 2:16).

In Eph. 6:17, Paul uses “*rhema*.” While sometimes used interchangeably with “*logos*,” it often carries a shade of meaning indicating “a spoken word.”

In this verse, it has been variously translated:

- “*which is the spoken word of God*” (*Newberry*).
- “*which is the saying of God*” (*Young*).
- “*which is the message of God (20th Century)*”.
- “*which is the voice of God*” (*Goodspeed*).

These versions underscore the truth that the Bible is not Paul’s subject here; the Holy Spirit is. Moreover, the Holy Spirit—our Sword—is also God’s “word, message, saying or voice” on our behalf.

When I discovered this, back in 1978, I simply needed to find out “how” to wield the “Sword of the Spirit.”

The answer appears in verse 18:

“By means of all prayer and supplication, praying at all times in the spirit.”

As I said in another book, to use a modern illustration, the Holy Spirit is our gun and prayer is the trigger!

We have already pointed out the place of intercession in

The Sword of the Spirit

Isaiah's prophecy of the "whole armor of God." The need was a "man," an "intercessor."

Isn't the Bible wonderful?!

Where would we be without the written Word of God to be our light and lamp in our spiritual pilgrimages?

Of course, as Paul declares in Rom. 8:26-28, the Holy Spirit is the "Great Intercessor!" We must simply give Him "right of way"¹ in our prayer lives, and let Him wage and win all of our spiritual battles under the leadership of the Captain of our salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God!

Will you not rejoice with me that the Lord Yahweh has provided for us the Perfect Weapon?

1. "right of way:" this is the meaning of the Greek word rendered "take" in Eph. 6:17, "and take (Gk., receive, give access to) salvation for your helmet and the Spirit as your sword."

The Perfect Weapon

Wrestling and Winning

“*F*inally, be strong in the Lord's strength, not your own. Get your power from him. Put on all the armour of God. Then you will be able to stand up strong against the clever attacks of the devil. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood. It is against the rulers of the present dark world and it is against evil powers in the spirit world” (Eph. 6:10-12, Laubach).

The title of this chapter comes from a book I wrote on the subject of spiritual warfare. The scripture makes it clear that we are not only sons and servants of God, but also soldiers. Our foes are not carnal, but spiritual, not natural, but supernatural. This is why we need the whole armor of God.

Have you been a Christian long enough to realize we—the Church of the Living God—pose a real threat to the kingdom of darkness?

Just as Israel needed to dispossess—by actual combat—the heathen nations illegally inhabiting their “promised land,” so, too, we must—by the Power of God—possess our possessions and conquer our Canaan. There will be some “wrestling” involved, you can be sure.

But, don't forget, we have the Perfect Weapon!

If we are faithful to wear the “whole armor of God,” we can “stand” against the wiles of the devil (Eph. 6:11). This word

means to protect or keep what one already has possessed (i.e., salvation, healing, peace, power, provision, etc.). In addition, however, we have the blessed privilege to, “‘withstand’ in the day—the evil one—and having overcome all opponents, to stand, victorious” (Eph. 6:13, Gk.).

This is not “holding the fort,” as essential as that is; but it is “storming the gates of hell, binding the strongman and then plundering his goods!”

“For we have to struggle, not with enemies of flesh and blood, but with the hierarchies, the authorities, the master-spirits of this dark world, the spirit-forces of evil on high” (Eph. 6:12, Goodspeed).

Dr. Goodspeed’s rendering gets to the heart of the issue. If there is, indeed, a time of darkness—an “evil day”—coming upon America, or any other nation, we can be sure it is being perpetrated by satanic powers in the “heavenlies” (the atmosphere). Fleshly tactics will not avail here; we need the Power of God.

Dealing With Demons

“But if I am casting out the demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of the (one, true) God has come upon you” (Mt. 12:28, Gk.).

There are two primary ways of dealing with the enemy. The first involves casting evil spirits out of those possessed by them through the command of faith (see my book, *The Dark World of Demons [Diploma in the Deaconate]*). Indeed, just this year, in three different meetings while ministering in Holland and Belgium, the Spirit of the Lord anointed me to cast the “spirit of fear” out of those tormented by it. Glorious freedom and liberation prevailed afterwards, with much praise to God.

Every Spirit-filled believer may be used in this way (Mk.

16:17). This ministry, as illustrated in the life of Jesus, requires the Power of the Spirit and His gifts (faith, working of miracles, discernment of spirits, etc.). People all over this nation and in other countries of the world need this ministry. Are we prepared to render it?

Prevailing Over Principalities

A second aspect of spiritual warfare involves doing battle with the enemies “at-large,” soaring free in the “heavenlies.” This is what Paul has reference to in Eph. 6:10-13. Paul envisions the Spirit-filled Church rising up in the Power of Spirit-led and inspired intercession and remaining steadfast in prayer until the enemies are vanquished.

“Wherefore, take up with you to the battle the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand them, and having overthrown them all, to stand unshaken” (Eph. 6:13, Conybeare).

Note these other renderings of this verse:

- *“and, having fought to the end, still stand your ground” (20th Century).*
- *“and, having fought to the end, to remain victors on the field” (Weymouth).*
- *“and, having completely finished the contest, to hold your own” (Williams).*
- *“and be found still on your feet, when all the task is over” (Knox).*

This is no "dry run." This is the real thing.

Our enemies, though invisible, are all too real.

We are wrestling, not against human beings, but against:

“those who have the mastery of the world in these dark days, with malign influences in an order higher than ours” (Knox).

It is not my aim to fully discuss all the spiritual armor in detail; this I have done in other books (***Prophetic Voice Institute Curriculum***).

My aim in this little volume is to rally a Spirit-filled Remnant to taking up the Sword of the Spirit and thereby, defeating the darkness, whether it be national, international, local, ministerial or personal. Whenever and wherever there is an “evil day,” the “Sword of the Lord” is available to defeat the devil!

The Spirit of God is our Sword and we wield this mighty Weapon by intercessory prayer in the Spirit (i.e., “other tongues”), Eph. 6:18. He is God’s “word” or “voice” on our behalf as we yield to Him in prayer.

Binding the Strongman

The Lord Jesus gives us the background for battle in several portions of scripture: Mt. 12:29; Mk. 3:27; Lk. 11:21-22. All of these references concern “binding the strongman” (devil) and then “plundering his goods.”

The legal ground of such warfare, of course, is the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary (Isa. 53). There, on the Cross of Christ, our salvation, healing, deliverance and dominion were purchased by the Savior’s Blood (see my books, ***What Price Freedom?*** and ***Plead the Blood!***). This “legal” victory must be made an “actual” one in our experience. This is done by wielding the “Sword of the Spirit” by means of praying in the Spirit (i.e., “other tongues”).

The Lord Jesus, Who was the Angel of God’s Presence for the Israelites under the Old Testament, Who went before them and prepared the place of their possession, the Promised Land, will, likewise, “go before us” through the Spirit, and “clear the

heavenlies” of the evil hosts arrayed against us. In this way, we can not only “possess our possessions,” but liberate others as well.

The Trinity

The entire Godhead is involved in this process. God, the Father, has made the provision. God the Son leads us into battle. And God the Holy Spirit brings the Divine will to pass in our lives and situations.

“And likewise the Spirit also jointly-helps the infirmities—ours—for we know not what we should be praying for, according as we ought: but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings unutterable” (Rom. 8:26, Gk.).

The next verse is especially helpful.

“And he, the one constantly searching the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, that he is making intercession for the saints according to God” (Rom. 8:27, Gk.).

This reminds us of the words of Paul in his letter to the Hebrews concerning the work of the Word (Logos) of God in our lives. This is a reference, not only to the written Word, the Bible, but also to the Living Word, the Lord Jesus.

“...and (it) is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And neither is there any creature not manifest before His sight” (Heb. 4:13).

The Lord Jesus reminds us that the Father knows what we need before we ask (Mt. 6:8). The Lord Jesus is searching our hearts, telling the Holy Spirit of our needs. He, in turn, represents us before the Throne of Grace in the perfect will of God.

Consider a courtroom scene. A defendant is making an appeal before the judge, his attorney interrupts and says, “What

my client means, your Honor, is..." The Holy Spirit is our "Counsel for the Defense!" As we pray "in the Spirit," He voices our petitions for and through us in a manner in full concert with the will of God for us and the situations for which we are burdened.

HalleluYah, what a Savior!

The result of this, of course, is Rom. 8:28:

"We are assured and know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [his] design and purpose" (Rom. 8:28, Amplified Bible).

This is not something the Lord does apart from us, but, rather, is a Divine-human partnership of the highest order. Through it, the will of God is actually done: in earth as in Heaven!

This brings another scripture to mind:

"Now unto him, the one who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all things that we are asking or thinking, according to the power, the one that is constantly working within us" (Eph. 3:20, Gk.).

This is another way of expressing Rom. 8:26-28. Because of the Love of God and His foreknowledge (Mt. 6:8), because of the faithfulness of the Lord Jesus (Rom. 8:27; Heb. 4:13), because of the Power and intercession of the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:26), we "more than conquer through Him Who loved us" (Rom. 8:37). This is getting "our" prayers answered...and then some.

The idea is, we are "turning every care into prayer" (Phil. 4:6-7), praying inwardly in our own language, and then outwardly in the Spirit's language. This is the perfect prayer.

New Testament Examples

Again, we haven't time or space to go into detail in this marvelous subject (see *Diploma in Discipleship*), but the Bible is replete with examples of the Early Church "praying through" and experiencing Divine deliverances.

"Prevailing prayer" brought about:

- Peter's deliverance from prison by an angel (Acts 12:5ff.).
- Paul and Silas' deliverance from prison (Acts 16:25ff.).
- "Wrestling" in prayer by Epaphras would result in the Colossian church standing fully mature in the will of God (Col. 4:12).
- "Wrestling" in prayer by the Romans for Paul would bring about his deliverance from unbelievers, his ministry being accepted by the saints, his earning unto them in the will of God, and his imparting some spiritual gift to them (Rom. 15:30).

These verses were not put into the Bible to fill up space. We don't need to teach about prayer as much as we need to pray. Someone has said, "Prayer is like a lion; turn it loose and it will defend itself."

It remains to be seen what can be accomplished through a dedicated army of Spirit-filled believers who are committed to effective spiritual warfare, who know their weapons and use them.

The Holy Spirit, through our prayers, wages and wins the battle in the invisible, heavenly realms. He "binds the strongman" and then we are enabled to "plunder his goods."

Do you understand why this truth has been hidden for so long?

“An enemy hath done this.”

Have you caught the vision of the unlimited resources that are available to us as the Spirit-empowered Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in the last days?

Angelic Ministry

“Bless Yahweh, ye his angels, mighty in strength, that are doing his commandments, hearkening to the voice of his word” (Psa. 103: 20, Heb.).

“Are they not all publicly ministering spirits, being sent forth to minister to them, the ones who are about to inherit salvation” (Heb. 1:14, Gk.)

These verses indicate at least one way in which such intercessory prayer warfare can be so effective: by the ministry of elect angels, dispatched on our behalf.

While there is no scripture authorizing us to converse with, much less “command” angels, the Lord Jesus, after being apprehended by the Romans, remarked to the disciples:

“Or thinkest thou that I cannot now call upon the Father—Mine—and He shall place beside Me more than twelve legions of angels” (Mt. 26:53, Gk.)?

According to Christ, one anointed prayer would have dispatched as many as 72,000 angels to His side!

No mention is made of “commanding” anything or anyone—even by the Son of God, Himself—how much less authority do we have to presume such power?

However, this does not take away from the fact that angels are “sent forth” (by God) to minister for us. How? No doubt, in answer to the all-wise prayers of the Holy Spirit through us!

Wrestling and Winning

After all, they do “His commandments,” and hearken to the voice of “His Word (Spirit, Eph. 6:17)”, (see Ps. 103:20).

We first win the battle in the spiritual and then it manifests in the natural.

Plundering His Goods

Jesus illustrated this procedure consistently in His own ministry. In Luke’s gospel, chapter six, during a time of success as well as opposition in His ministry, when He needed wisdom concerning who to appoint as His 12 Apostles, we read:

"And it came to pass in the days—those—he went out into the mountain to pray, and was continuing all night in the prayer of God" (Lk. 6:12, Gk.).

This was not Christ’s prayer *to* God, but rather, God’s (the Spirit’s) prayer *through Him* to the Father.

God’s Faith

The Master’s prayer life and communion with and dependence on the Holy Spirit resulted in His ability to “plunder the strongman’s goods” in His public ministry.

When the disciples failed to deliver the demon-possessed boy brought to them by the child’s father, Jesus immediately cast it out and healed the boy.

Did they “believe?”

Of course, or they wouldn’t have been having the “healing meeting” in the first place.

Why did they fail?

“Because of your no-faith: for amen I say unto you, if you are

The Perfect Weapon

having faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say unto the mountain—this one—remove at once to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you” (Mt. 17:20, Gk.).

Here Christ admonished that a “mustard seed” of God’s faith (Mk. 11:22; I Cor. 12:9; 13:2) would do more than a “bushelful” of our own!

And where do we get it?

“However the kind (of demon)—this one—goeth not out but by prayer and fasting” (Mt. 17: 21, Gk.).

Since the Master blamed the disciples’ lack of “the faith,” as I said in another book, we could paraphrase: “This kind (of faith) cometh not in (to our hearts) but by prayer and fasting!”

What was Jesus doing before this public ministerial success?

He was on the mountain, praying where He was “transfigured” by the Power of God (Mt. 17:1ff; Lk. 9:28ff.)!

What would happen if we occasionally passed “all night” in the “prayer of God?”

How does all this “work out” in experience?

While we can’t understand all the “why’s and wherefore’s,” and God doesn’t expect us to, Paul does tell us that during, and as a result of, praying “in the Spirit” (i.e., “other tongues”), God can minister to us: a revelation, word of knowledge, prophecy or teaching (I Cor. 14:6, 18). Since “*the* faith cometh by hearing, and hearing (spiritually) by a word from God” (Rom. 10:17, Gk.), we can understand how communion in the Holy Spirit could strengthen or impart special faith (Jude 20). What are these four manifestations Paul speaks of but, “words from God?”

Wrestling and Winning

According to Jesus, it is pray... then say. Faith... then works.

Bind the strongman... then plunder his goods. First edification... then manifestation.

Do you understand now Paul's boast concerning his private prayer life "in the Spirit?" (I Cor. 14:18).

Are we willing to follow in his footsteps?

The Perfect Weapon

Making it Work

“**S**o the faith apart from the works is dead also” (Ja. 2:26, Gk.).

Our God has provided us with the “Perfect Weapon” in spiritual warfare, the Holy Spirit. Moreover, He has revealed how to wield this mighty Sword, by intercessory prayer “in the Spirit” (i.e., “other tongues”). He has also provided beautiful pictures of this ministry in the Old Testament. The Bible declares that not only would His Angel precede the Israelites into the Promised Land, but that He would send “hornets” ahead to drive out the enemy (Exo. 23:28; Deut. 7:20; Jos. 24:12). What is this but a picture of the Lord Jesus sending forth elect angels to dislodge the “principalities and powers” in the heavenlies from before us?

Of course, it was the Holy Spirit Who led the way for the Jews and it is He Who does so for us (Rom. 8:26-28; Jn. 16:13).

How can we make this teaching practical? By applying it.

We can do this in our own devotional lives, “praying through”—daily—until the burden is gone and the peace of God is ruling and reigning in our hearts (Phil. 4:6-7).

We can teach others to do so, privately, and in small groups.

We can organize periodic “church wide” times of corporate

The Perfect Weapon

intercession, along with small group prayer meetings through the week, meeting in homes (we have **C.A.M.P.** meetings, i.e., **Communion And Ministry, Prayer** meetings).

For whom or what should we pray?

Certainly, this is as the Spirit of God burdens us, individually and corporately.

We can begin with:

- Governmental leaders (I Tim. 2:1-4).
- Ministers of the Gospel (Eph. 6:19-20).
- One another (Ja. 5:16).

These subjects, alone, should keep us occupied for awhile.

Wherever and whenever the Victory of the Cross is being challenged, we should yield to the Holy Spirit in intercessory prayer until the release comes. “A man on his knees is taller than the trees.”

Three Enemies

I mentioned that this teaching is not only applicable in national prayer, but is effective in any area. Will it benefit us as we battle our three foes: the world, the flesh and the devil?

“Stop loving the world” (I Jn. 2:15, Gk.).

How can we be delivered from the infatuation of this doomed, world system?

By what someone has called, “the expulsive power of a greater affection.” Where can we find a love stronger than the love of the flesh for the world?

“But ye, beloved ones, constantly building up yourselves on

Making it Work

the faith—your most holy one—praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God” (Jude 20-21, Gk.).

We are born of Love (I Jn. 3:14) and were filled with Love (Rom. 5:5); we can remain “in the flow of God’s Love” by communing with the Spirit!

“For if you are constantly living according to the flesh, you are about to die: but if you through the Spirit are constantly putting to death the deeds of the body, you shall live” (Rom. 8:13, Gk.).

The Spirit is our Sword. For what else does one use a sword, but to kill things?

You’ve wondered how to “win over sin” and crucify the deeds of the flesh.

Now you know; bring them to God in prayer, allowing the Spirit of God to swallow up your weakness in His Divine strength (see my book, *Psychiatry, Sin & Salvation [Diploma in Ministry]*).

“Be sober, be vigilant; because the opponent—yours—the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking someone he may swallow up whole” (I Pet. 5:8, Gk.).

Can we defeat, not only the world and the flesh, but the devil?

“Whom resist steadfast in the faith” (I Pet. 5:9).

How can we “resist” or “wrestle” with the enemy?

Through the Holy Spirit and intercessory prayer (Eph. 6:10-20)!

How can we become strong in faith?

The Perfect Weapon

By praying in the Holy Ghost (Jude 20).

Thank God for the “Perfect Weapon.”

It Works!

“*L*et the redeemed of Yahweh say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy” (Psa. 107:2).

While time and space do not permit me to go into detail regarding the many ways, I, personally, have benefited from applying the truths in this book, I would like to outline a few examples.

- In 1974, after a time of Spirit-led intercession, my wife (at that time my girlfriend) had a vision of me preaching to a multitude of black people, in the open air, in the evening under bright lights. This came to pass 14 years later on the island of Haiti in the Caribbean. Nearly 500 were saved in four meetings with over 3,000 believers receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.

It is a matter of public record that God supernaturally stopped the rain in direct answer to public prayer before thousands of people, three nights in a row! Each day of the crusade, my youth pastor and I wielded the “Sword of the Spirit” in intercessory prayer. He received a prophetic word during prayer before we left America that a strong angel had been dispatched to protect us.

The first night, while I was preaching—unknown to us—a witch was moving through the crowd, attempting to disrupt the service. She was smitten to the ground—apart from human

The Perfect Weapon

intervention—and was later delivered from devils, saved and filled with the Holy Spirit.

- I prayed just under seven hours in June, 1982 for God to open a door for full-time missionary work in Australia; in three days we were sponsored by the largest “full Gospel” movement on the continent. We saw hundreds saved, filled, healed and delivered over 14 months.
- In July, 1981, while in England on my first short-term mission trip, after several hours of Spirit-empowered intercession, a prophecy came forth announcing a great battle had been won in the heavenlies; I’ve been back over eight times.
- After much prayer, God spoke to me in January 1984 to go to Athens, Greece. One year later I completed a week of meetings there with hundreds saved, filled and healed. Midway through the meetings—during Holy-Ghost prayer—God revealed and bound the “ruling spirit” there. The host pastor said it was the greatest move of God in special services he’d seen in 30 years (since Morris Cerullo had been there). Several had open visions of the Master and dozens of young people were prostrate under the Power of God (I’ve been back five times to date, 1991).

Scores of times, when situations seemed hopeless the mighty “Sword of the Spirit” has fought and won the battle in the heavenlies, bound the strongman, and then given us the blessed privilege of plundering his goods.

In January (1991), I was in a crusade the very week the Gulf War began. Even with student demonstrations in downtown Athens—because of prayer—the meetings continued, unhindered with over 60 saved and dozens filled and healed, God confirming His Word with signs, wonders and miracles. It works... it works... it works!

The Next Step...

You have read the book.

You have been alerted, intrigued, informed and challenged. The next step is yours. What you do with this knowledge is between you and God. To whom much is given, much is required. The fact that you received this book points out that God wants to do something wonderful in your life and ministry. Will you let Him?

As this new edition goes to press (June, 2004), I am amazed at the accuracy of the Holy Spirit's warning in 1991, in the light of the tragic events of September 11th, 2001. Only God could have known and endeavored to prepare His people in America so far in advance. Indeed, this ministry mailed gift copies of this book to the president, judicial leaders and members of congress at that time. Perhaps something even worse was prevented. May God use the truth in this book to prevent any and all further, similar tragedies.

I would appreciate hearing from you and how this book is blessing you and your ministry.

I am praying for you.

May God's richest and best be yours.

ALSO BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Ready for the Rapture
You Must Be Drunk!
Why Not Women?
Faith's Formula
Creative Faith
Living on the Threshold of Eternity
How to Get Rich, Quick!
What Price, Freedom?
At the Master's Feet
The Presence of God
Light For Living
Plead the Blood!
Seven Secrets of Successful Living
Wonder-Working Words
Success Secrets From Sacred Scripture
Walk with God
Help from Heaven
When You Need a Miracle
Your New Life
The Man Who Wasn't There

ABOUT THE AUTHOR...

Dr. Joseph Kostelnik is founder and president of Gospel Truth Ministries, an apostolic ministry with a three-fold vision: a local church (**White Oak Chapel**), training up and sending out of ministers of the Word (**The Prophetic Voice Institute**), and short-term mission trips to foreign fields as God leads.

He holds a B.A. from Point Park University, an M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary, a Th.D. and Ph.D. from International Seminary, an honorary D.D. from Kingsway Christian College & Theological Seminary and an honorary Litt.D. from International Seminary.

He has served as: pastor, assistant pastor, evangelist, Bible teacher, missionary, author, educator, and media minister. He has ministered in the United States as well as overseas, including: England, Scotland, Australia, France, Greece, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Crete, Haiti and New Zealand and his ministry is marked by the miraculous.

FREE ONLINE MINISTRY TRAINING

[HTTP://WWW.GTM.ORG/PVI/](http://www.gtm.org/pvi/)

Study the Word of God online in the comfort of your own home: **free!** Dr. Kostelnik's plan is to offer his courses, sharing knowledge acquired over 30 years through study, personal experiences with God and experience in all phases of Gospel ministry, **FREE** over the Internet, to *everyone* who wishes to take them!

Diploma in Discipleship: This first course covers ten basic doctrines of the Christian faith, and then builds on these through the ten Discipleship lessons, which show one how to put the doctrines and beliefs into practice, according to the Word of God; two books: *Doctrine & Discipleship*.

Diploma in the Deaconate: This second course covers the God-ordained ministry of deacon as a whole, the specifics of the office, and also includes other volumes aimed at encouraging the lay Christian who desires to do his part as a believer in the local church; four books: *Seven Keys of Successful Ministry; The Empty Office; All About the Anointing; The Dark World of Demons*.

Diploma in Ministry: This third and final course covers the specifics of the ministry of Christ, what is required of the minister, and how to effectively live out the call God has put on the minister's life; six books: *Miracles & the Ministry; The Making of a Minister; Gifts Unto Men; The Lord Jesus: The Christ; Prayer in the Spirit: The Missing Link; Psychiatry, Sin & Salvation*.

Register free online today!

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS MINISTRY..

“Dr. Kostelnik’s book *The Lord Jesus: the Christ* is one of the most edifying and uplifting books I’ve ever read...and working with Dr. Cerullo, I’ve read a lot of good books.” - **Ruth Meadows, European director, Morris Cerullo World Evangelism**

“To know Joe is to know he is an anointed minister of the gospel, striving to hear and do as the Holy Spirit directs. His revelations on women in ministry have surely been directed of God.” - **Mary Laird, station manager, Trinity Broadcasting Network**

“His anointed teaching has inspired me and many others in Australia; after having Dr. Kostelnik minister in our church and in a citywide crusade, I recommend that you acquire more of this Divinely inspired material through which you will undoubtedly be blessed also.” - **Rev. Merv Westbrook, Outback Evangelism, (Darwin, Australia)**

“I appreciate Joe’s books, teaching and great evangelistic ministry; he has a unique combination of intellectual and educational depth, strict scriptural adherence and outstanding preaching ability.” - **Rev. Dick Taylor, founder & president FOCAS, (Cincinnati, Ohio)**

“We recommend Dr. Kostelnik and his ministry highly, he has been a great blessing in all of our churches in Holland and Belgium, with many saved, healed and filled with the Holy Spirit. We have published his articles in our magazine and are busy translating *Prayer in the Spirit: The Missing Link*, into Dutch.” - **Gerie van der Dussen, secretary, Maasbach World Mission (Holland)**

“Now that we have translated your book on ministry into Greek, we can start on your others; the people here desperately need this anointed ministry.” - **Rev. D. Jimmy Zachariou, Assemblies Of God, (Athens, Greece)**

“Brother Joe has a real touch of God on his ministry. We saw this in Haiti in great outdoor mass crusades... many were saved, healed, baptized in the Holy Ghost and delivered! We are very anxious for his next crusades here.” - **Bishop Octamoliere Liberius (Port-au-Prince, Haiti, W.I.)**

“Love, truth and compassion are what I sense after seeing the Lord Jesus glorified through the ministry of Brother Kostelnik.” - **Xavier Mainguy, deacon, New Life Church (Paris, France)**

“Through the revelation of the Spirit and also the manifestation of God’s Power to His children through him, I believe Dr. Kostelnik is qualified to tell God’s people that signs, wonders and miracles are for the Body of Christ today.” (from the foreword to *Miracles and the Ministry*) - **the late Rev. Dr. Brian Graham, pastor-evangelist (Darlington, England)**