

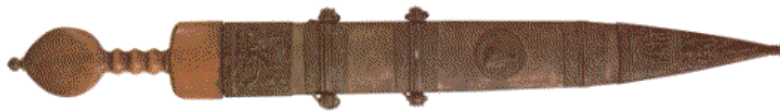


The Sword of the Spirit

"In the 3rd or 2nd century B.C., the Romans adopted a long, pointed, double-edged Iberian weapon which they called the 'Spanish sword'. This basic design, with various modifications continued through to the 2nd century A.D."



"Attached to the belt, the sword was also suspended from a leather strap over the opposite shoulder. The Roman sword (*gladius*) was 18-22 inches long, 2 inches wide and narrowed towards the centre. Weighing about 3 pounds, it was made of a soft iron core with outer surface carburized and tempered to make it harder. The bone handle was shaped to fit the soldier's hand and a large round ball at the end helped with the balance."



Ordinary infantrymen and cavalrymen wore their swords on the right side. Holding their shields with their left hand, they could draw and wield the sword with their right hand and keep from hurting their fellow soldiers in the tight ranks of the formation. Centurions wore them on the left. The *gladius* was not designed for hacking, but more for thrusting forward into the enemy's body. It was very light which meant that it could be used in a very fast manner when stabbing at opponents. The blade was often held horizontally so that it would slip between the ribs when thrust into the enemy.





The Sword of the Spirit

The Sword for the Roman Soldier:

- 1) His sword was his primary **OFFENSIVE** weapon in defeating the enemy and as such was his ultimate **DEFENSIVE** weapon.
- 2) It was, however, useless to him unless it was kept **READY** and **MAINTAINED**.
- 3) To be used effectively, it had to be wielded with **SKILL**.

The Word of God for the Saint:

- 1) The Bible is a **GIFT** to us from God Himself. (II Timothy 3:16-17)
- 2) The Holy Spirit **INTERPRETS** it for the believer. (John 14:26; I Cor. 2:10-14)
- 3) It is our responsibility to **IMMERSE** ourselves in God's word. (II Tim. 2:15)
- 4) The Holy Spirit **REMINDS** us in our hour of need what we've studied. (John 14:26)

The word "word" in vs. 17 is not the totality of God's word (logos) but specific portions of God's word (rema). The best example of the "word's" use is when Satan tempted Christ in Matthew 4.

- 5) God's word is to be used with **PRECISION** against temptation. (Matt. 4:1-11)
- 6) The **SKILL, PRECISION, and COMMITMENT** required for the effective use of the word against the enemy and to bring us into conformity with Christ, may be the exact reason believers are so lazy in its use. (Heb. 4:12-13)

Modern "guerilla tactics" used by the enemy against the saint:

- 1) From within the church comes the question: Is Scripture "**SUFFICIENT**"? Do we rely on the world's methods or God's direction? (II Tim. 3:16-17)
- 2) Churches today stress experience instead of truth - feelings instead of doctrine - and we breed congregations who are not required to think but to feel. (II Tim. 3:14-15) Where are the Bereans? (Acts 17:11)
- 3) Divide and conquer. How many congregations and individuals turn away from each other because of "irreverent babble"? (II Tim. 2:14-17a)

The cure is to read, memorize, and apply **ALL** of Scripture to **ALL** of our life and in **ALL** circumstances. (Psalm 19 & 119)