

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

1. Read Matthew 4:1-10 and then discuss Jesus' use of the Sword of the Spirit. Note that Satan also used scriptural quotations. How can you know the correct use of biblical materials from their wrong use? Check 2 Peter 3:16 too.
2. Roman swords came in various types, styles, and sizes for a variety of uses. What translations of scripture do you use and in what circumstances? Why do you prefer that/those specific sword/s?
3. First century Roman swords were tempered by forging them with powdered charcoal to add carbon to the blade. What has been part of your "forging" process as you have studied the Bible? What things have "hit you" in ways that provide strength to your belief, character, and actions? What or who has acted as the charcoal/carbon to give strength to your biblical understanding and application?
4. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest and 10 the highest, where would you put your Bible study skills right now?
5. What methods of Bible study work best for you? Why is that? What other styles of Bible study have you explored? With what results?
6. Jesus indicated that the whole of scripture tells about Him (John 5:39). What have been some of your most recent discoveries of Him as you have studied the Bible?
7. What is your personal "sword-drill" routine like? How and when do you do deep study of the Bible? What skills do you plan to develop to help your study? How and when will you develop those skills; what is your plan? What materials have you found to help you with your study? What materials do you need to get to help you do deeper study?
8. It has been said that there are two ways of studying the Bible: one way is like a pitch-fork or a shovel (Aha! This text applies to *them*, so I will throw it at/on them!). The other way is like using a rake (Wow, this applies to *me*. I guess I need to pull that into my life). What percentage of your study is pitch-fork? What percentage is rake?
9. Using a *gladius* required a solid grip. How good is your grip and grasp of the Bible? How good is its grip on you?
10. What are some texts that have had personal impact and meaning in your life? How has that been so?
11. Recall and relate a time when your used scripture to thrust back temptation and defeat by the enemy. What materials came to mind and into play?



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