

# *The Armory*

A warrior in full plate armor with a plumed helmet, holding a sword and shield, set against a dramatic red and white background with falling red particles.

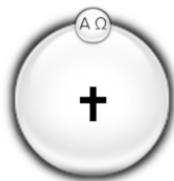
## The Full Armor of God

A perspective for Bible study by  
[www.simplifiedtheology.org](http://www.simplifiedtheology.org)

# Creative Commons License

Any intellectual property (IP) from outside sources remains exclusively the property of said sources. Simplifiedtheology.org does not have any claim to said intellectual property (IP) in whole or in part. The terms of the CC BY-SA 4.0 International license does NOT apply to their IP. Please contact those outside sources for licensing information to avoid copyright violations.

**Site logo:**



All original proprietary print, audio, video and any other digital content on this web-site (*with the exception of the site logo which remains the exclusive trademarked property of simplifiedtheology.org*) is hereby released to the public under the following license:



**CC BY-SA 4.0**

## **Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International**

This license requires that re-users give credit to the creator. It allows re-users to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, even for commercial purposes. If others remix, adapt, or build upon the material, they must license the modified material under identical terms.

- **BY:** Credit must be given to you, the creator.
- **SA:** Adaptations must be shared under the same terms.

For more information about the license, click the link below:

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>

Content courtesy [www.simplifiedtheology.org](http://www.simplifiedtheology.org) 2025.

Cover image courtesy Mythologyart via [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com)

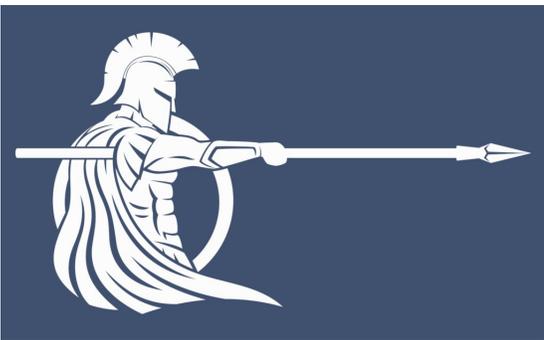
<b>Full Armor of God.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Etiquette/ Reverence.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Parts of the Sword.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Proper Grip.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Iado.....</b>	<b>17</b>

## Full Armor of God:

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore take up the *whole armor of God*, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having *girded your waist with truth*, having put on the *breastplate of righteousness*, 15 and having *shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace*; 16 above all, taking the *shield of faith* with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the *helmet of salvation*, and the *sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

*-Ephesians 6:10-20 (NKJV) bold and italic print mine for emphasis*



Images courtesy of tronand via www.istock.com

---

## Helmet:

### Why is the helmet associated with salvation?

Have you considered the idea that having something compelling for the future will help you "keep your head", so-to-speak? There are several other metaphors which come to mind; one being, "the light at the end of the tunnel". When we find ourselves "in the middle of it", it can be very difficult to believe there is a future outside of the current mess which will resolve in our favor.

18 Where *there is* no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.

*-Proverbs 29:18 (NKJV)*

When we're overcome by life and we come to the conclusion there's no future, we lose hope. When we lose hope, we're as good as dead. Although technically part of us is still living, we become dead on the inside-zombielike. That disease will eventually overtake the parts that are still living until there's nothing left but the decayed corpse of our former self. This is profoundly devastating.

Image courtesy popmelon via www.pixabay.com



## Breastplate:

### Why is the breastplate associated with righteousness?

What happens when your heart becomes wounded? The reflexive response is to protect it. There's nothing automatically wrong with this. When any other part of your body is injured it requires special attention and nurturing until it's healed. The heart is no exception. The real danger is the temptation to strike back in a way which is sinful and will only do more damage to everyone involved.

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the issues of life.

*-Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)*

The New International version says to, "Guard your heart..."

There are too many references throughout the Bible which describe what happens when someone's heart grows hard. In Exodus, in the case of Pharaoh, he couldn't accept he was not omniscient nor all powerful. As a result he made the mistake of believing he could challenge God. He and his countrymen suffered greatly for his delusion.

Being soft hearted does *not* obligate you to be target practice. Be very wary of manipulative people. They may accuse you of being "hard hearted" because you insist on boundaries. They may also accuse you of not being "loving". I find it best to give such people the "gift" of my complete and utter disregard. Ignore them. If you must speak to them, do so as to a child. Ironically, allowing yourself to be manipulated by such people will eventually contribute to your heart becoming hardened in general.

### Keep in mind the parable of the frog and the scorpion:

One day a scorpion came to the river's edge. He wanted to cross but couldn't swim. He saw a frog and asked if the frog would transport him across. The frog refused saying he was afraid the scorpion would sting him and both would drown. The scorpion promised he wouldn't as that would be self destructive. The frog finally agreed and began to transport the scorpion across the river. Half-way across, the scorpion stung the frog and they both drowned. Before going under the water the frog asked the scorpion why he'd done that. The scorpion simply replied, "It's my nature."

---

## Belt:

### Why is the belt associated with truth?

The Truth is central to everything and holds it all together. What would happen if society were founded on deception or falsehood? What would happen if you agreed to perform some task for me and I agreed to pay you, but lied. Let's say the court system reinforced my right to lie to you as being superior to the agreement we had made. Let's say the justification was "Survival of the Fittest"; since you allowed yourself to be lied to (proving your "sucker" factor) you deserved to be taken advantage of. Because you're clearly not strong enough to survive, you don't deserve to.

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

*-John 14:6 (NKJV)*

- Without God there is nothing-literally.
- God holds all of Creation together by His power.
- Jesus and God are one and the same.
- Jesus says he *is* the truth. The truth is a component of his being like hydrogen and oxygen are components of water.
- God cannot lie/ sin because it's contrary to his perfect nature.

Therefore, the Truth must be a part of everything and is instrumental in holding it all together.

## God cannot lie: (all quotes from NKJV, *bold and italics* are mine for emphasis)

<sup>19</sup> “*God is not a man, that He should lie*, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

-Numbers 23:19

1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life which God, *who cannot lie*, promised before time began, 3 but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior; 4 To Titus, a true son in *our* common faith: Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

-Titus 1:1-4

17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, *in which it is impossible for God to lie*, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.

-Hebrews 6:17-18

## God cannot be tempted/ sin: (all quotes from NKJV, *bold and italics* are mine for emphasis)

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; *for God cannot be tempted by evil*, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

-James 1:13

---

## Sandals:

### Why are the sandals associated with the Gospel?

I think there are several reasons for this. The first being Jesus says to, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." The point is to *take the initiative* and share the grace we've been given with others. If we don't take the initiative the default will be for things to degrade slowly but steadily because creation has been subjected to decay because of sin entering the world. This idea is also reinforced in Matthew 16:18 where Jesus says, "...the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." Gates are a *defensive* mechanism. It seems the believers are initiating the assault on the stronghold of the forces of darkness and Jesus guarantees they will be victorious. If we don't initiate, sin will thrive and many more will be lost as a result of our inaction. Secondly, we need to be "moving" as we offer a defense of our faith. There are any number of attacks on the faith which can land a wounding blow if we don't know how to "dodge" them and "attack" back (the martial language is obviously a figure of speech—we're not fighting flesh and blood but rather ideologies, principalities, spirits, etc. which are attacking the faith). We need to be ready and nimble for those times we're attacked so we can "move" and respond appropriately. Thirdly, the "good news" should help us stay motivated during the tough times. Like the helmet of salvation, it serves to give us hope and purpose as we work for a greater good for the benefit of others.

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

-Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

-Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

*-1 Peter 3:15-16 (NKJV)*

---

## Shield:

### Why is the shield associated with the faith?

Some time ago I was listening to Jim Warner Wallace of Cold Case Christianity relaying his experience as a police officer regarding his bulletproof vest. He mentioned at some point he had to transition from belief *that* his vest would protect him, to a faith *in* his vest protecting him.

Our faith is like that. If we are "...sure of what we hope for and certain of what we don't see..." Hebrews 11:1 (paraphrased) this will help us survive the attacks we'll experience as believers. Also, the shield, in ancient times was not *just* for the protection of the individual holding it. It was also for the protection of the one to his side. Our faith is like that. When others are weak, if our faith is strong it can reinvigorate them in their struggles thus strengthening the entire "unit".

The shield is definitely a defensive item however, it's very much an offensive one as well. Likewise, our faith is definitely for our own defense but (through prayer, etc.) can *and* should be used to go on the attack.

(Jim Warner Wallace and Cold Case Christianity do not endorse [simplifiedtheology.org](http://simplifiedtheology.org). [Simplifiedtheology.org](http://Simplifiedtheology.org) does not have any affiliation with the aforementioned entities in any way.)

58 Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

*-Matthew 13:58 (NKJV)*

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

*-Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)*

18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*" And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

*-James 2:18-26 (NKJV)*

---

## Sword:

### Why is it important for the sword to be associated with the Word of God?

I think there are a lot of reasons. One thing I want to be very careful with is not combining God's Word with other philosophies or lines of thought. God's Word stands alone and does not permit blending with anything else; it is *not* an "inclusive" ideology in that respect—much to the chagrin of theological hipsters of today.

One culture we can learn something from, in this respect, is samurai culture. Again, we're *not* blending samurai culture with God's Word, but using it as a model for how we approach the sword. The samurai viewed their swords as extensions of their own being. They exhibited great deference for their swords. They took excellent care of them, since their lives depended on them. They were used for attack and for defense. Swords were a part of the imperial regalia and even today, symbolize justice, authority, power, etc.

There's a lot to training with the sword/ Word of God. This will be an entire section in it's own right.

## Train with the Sword:

What are things we should consider as we train with the sword/ Word of God?



- Sword Etiquette/ proper reverence/ respect for the Sword/ Word
- Parts of the Sword/Word
- Proper grip for the Sword/ Word (is critical for making proper cuts)
- Clean/ Protect the Sword/ Word
- Iaido-Quick Draw
- Target Areas/ Practice Cuts

Sword image courtesy faiha via  
[www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com)

For a dramatic presentation of all these elements working together please go to You-Tube and search for "Troy Hector vs. Achilles full scene" or just click this link: <https://youtu.be/68Vu-jiPWrc?si=44Zgh3UnFE5tyMfV>

## Etiquette/ Reverence:



Image courtesy faiha via www.pixabay.com

## Sword Training:

As we go into this portion, I want to stress the importance of *not* commingling ideologies. God's Word is complete without any outside assistance. In fact, God's Word will be the sole judge for *every* other form of thought on Judgment Day. It can be useful to refer to some other things for *a little* inspiration from time to time. We do this all the time. So-and-so [insert athlete/ movie star, etc.] does [insert virtue, etc. here] really well and, I admire them for it. I would like to do [insert virtue, etc. here] as well as they do. So...using the samurai as an example for their sword technique is not something we want to take too far. It's just a visual example with a little bit of focus on the mindset. That's it, nothing more.

## Etiquette/ Reverence

1 Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. 2 So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. 3 And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD spoke, saying:

‘By those who come near Me

***I must be regarded as holy;***

And before all the people

***I must be glorified.’ ”***

So Aaron held his peace.

***-Leviticus 10:1-3 (NKJV) bold and italics mine for emphasis***

10 *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom*, and the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.

*-Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV) bold and italics mine for emphasis*

15 *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts*, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

*-1Peter 3:15-16 (NKJV) bold and italics mine for emphasis*

1 Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; *and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools*, for they do not know that they do evil.

*-Ecclesiastes 5:1 (NKJV) bold and italics mine for emphasis*



Samurai photo courtesy pictosmith via www.istock.com

**Etiquette:** the conduct or procedure required by good breeding or prescribed by authority to be observed in social or official life.-  
*Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 11th edition*

**Reverence:** **1:** honor or respect felt or shown: DEFERENCE; *esp:* profound adoring awed respect **2:** a gesture of respect (as a bow) **3:** the state of being revered **4:** one held in reverence-used as a title for clergyman *syn* see HONOR.-*Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 11th edition.*

These days reverence is something which is no longer "fashionable". Honor and respect, generally speaking, seem to be viewed as outdated relics of a time gone by. Words like this imply an obligation by one to submit/ humble oneself to another. In this "modern" world, this is heresy of the highest order and practitioners of these oppressive ideals are deserving of being burnt at the stake. The obvious exception being those who've attained a nice collection of honorifics after their names (m. Div, B.S.-we all know what that stands for [Bachelor of Science-get your mind out of the gutter], M.S.-more of the same, Ph. D-Piled Higher and Deeper). In this case reverence, honor and respect are mandated under pain of death. In the event someone reaches the tipping point of intellectual achievement and becomes a super intellect-you'd better respond with breathless orgasmic glee when you acknowledge their "Miranda Priestly" station to your "Emily" status in life (please refer to "The Devil Wears Prada" to understand the reference).

Thankfully, the greatest theological minds the world has ever known (Karl Marx, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Simone de Beauvoir and others) have helped us "progress" beyond these trivial ideals. A better standard of: infatuation with celebrity, has replaced those boorish values of earlier times when the unfortunate souls who lived then were less sophisticated and complex (because they had not experienced the profundity of our "modern" education) than we are now.



**Smash the Patriarchy!**

The aforementioned (pseudo-) intellectual juggernauts have freed us from the constraints of the past. It's been stated a body of water cannot rise above its own level. While this may be true of things in the physical universe, thankfully this is not true in the ideological universe. The greatest example of this being, the most profound mind to have ever existed, Karl Marx. Thankfully, this was followed by the greatest time in human history, the '60s & '70s. Because these events have freed us from all oppression, injustice and inequality, we've now attained the present day philosophical nirvana. Ideologically speaking we can definitely claim to have a better, more thorough understanding of the true nature of reality, even compared to the One who created it.

Thus, the heavenly Patriarchy can officially consider itself smashed, and can only wait in fearful trepidation as human history unfolds and mankind finally usurps its proper place on the throne of Heaven! Tragically, Heaven is completely powerless to intervene.

### **Delusion is an extremely powerful drug!**

**The Point:** The Sword (God's Word) will be effective. This is true because God has said it is-**period**. Either, one will voluntarily throw themselves on the stone and be broken (which will be painful) *or*, at the end of time, the individual will be involuntarily crushed by the stone. There is no third option. Either way God's will, *will* be done.

If God's Word does not appear to be effective today, this has *nothing* to do with the Word of God. Rather, this is the apostasy of those who wield it. In the book of Matthew chapter 13 verse 58 it says Jesus could not do any miracles because of the lack of faith of those receiving said miracles. This is interesting since there were many times he performed miracles, in spite of the recipients lack of faith.

It does make sense however. If one is not convinced God's Word will be effective, one will not relay it with the intensity the Holy Spirit intended for it to be relayed. Those who are receiving the Word will observe the "believer" has some doubts about what they're saying, thus the "believer" will send mixed signals. If the "believer" doesn't genuinely believe what they're saying, why should anyone else? The lack of effectiveness will simply be a self fulfilling prophecy founded in the unbelief of the "believer".

Unfortunately, this will lead the apostate to mistakenly believe they are more righteous than the Holy Spirit. The problem is clearly a dysfunction of the Word of God. There can't be any problem with the "believer". They've acquired too great a level of (mis) education to be susceptible to the errors of the common folk.

That one passage (especially in the "Old" Testament-the one that sounds mean) wasn't written by a prophet as he was carried along by the Holy Spirit. It was in fact a product of a misogynist, patriarchal, homo/ xeno/ [insert the current list here]-phobic society of Bronze Age shepherding rubes who could never understand the ultra-complex modern society we currently live in today. Never mind the prophet when he said (as he was carried along by the Holy Spirit who transcends time and space and can see the end from the beginning) that the Word was once for all given and *is* complete in its current form for all time. The Holy Spirit, although He had a hand in creating the original Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic, never earned accreditation for having studied it at an institution of "higher" learning. This is evidenced by the lack of honorifics after his name (Holy Spirit) such as Ph. D (Piled higher and Deeper). Thankfully, those with a long list of honorifics will, on Judgment Day, correct the Holy Spirit for those "mean" verses by informing him what he really meant to say, so he could be winsome and not damage his witness to the World.

This sums up the current state of affairs in the religious industrial complex. There is no fear of God. As a result, there is no reverence. Because of this, God's Word is *not* held in high esteem or taken seriously by either the "believer" nor, by extension, the non-believer. Thus, the focus is primarily on playing theological tea party, where everyone dresses up, pretends to be proper, engages in useless banter about things which have no value, then leave feeling as if they've done something cutting edge.

The students need to be put back into their proper place. They seem to believe they have finished their training and are now masters in a position to innovate and create their own legacy. The truth...they never started their training. Their cumulative knowledge of their subject is essentially-zero.

Ironically, the ego of the students leads them to believe the Master appreciates their "innovation" at the expense of their obedience. Assigning themselves the position of lord, they dethrone (in their own silly little imagination) the one they confessed as Lord and swore an oath of submission and loyalty to as a condition of their acceptance of His grace. Being intoxicated with the pursuit of their own glory, they unintentionally violate the most basic principles which should govern their lives, and are working for their own destruction.

If you need a visual example for this, please refer to the case of Ms. Perkins from John Wick 1, who threw away all the most basic non-negotiables of her world for personal gain, believing she would be magically exempt. Tragically, she learned the hard way...she wasn't. [https://youtu.be/VeWoUCPqYF0?si=NWBzr6NW4j\\_e2tn0](https://youtu.be/VeWoUCPqYF0?si=NWBzr6NW4j_e2tn0)

The students need to submit themselves to the Master to *begin* their training and commit themselves to be stewards of the knowledge with which they've been entrusted. The students need to find those who are dedicated to a path of true mastery as opposed to sitting at the feet of infomercial style gurus who will sell you a "masters" rating for the low price of \$19.99 (if you order within the next [insert time frame here] they'll double your order).

For an example of showing proper reverence for the sword, click the link: <https://youtu.be/je1xjgk4s?si=gg60BF-B14juViIw>

Masayuki Shimabukuro, Carl Long, the John Wick franchise, et al do not endorse and are in no way affiliated with [www.simplifiedtheology.org](http://www.simplifiedtheology.org). Likewise, [www.simplifiedtheology.org](http://www.simplifiedtheology.org) does not necessarily endorse the aforementioned parties and has no affiliation with them of any kind. The linked video is being utilized simply as a visual reference. All rights are retained by the respective parties.

## Parts of the Sword:



Image courtesy nvd9612 via www.pixabay.com

### Parts of the Sword:

We all should be reasonably familiar with the basic parts of the Bible:

**"Old" Testament:** 39 books total

Law Books: 5

History Books: 12

Poetry Books: 5

Prophetic Books (4 Major and 13 Minor): 17

**"New" Testament:** 27 books total

Gospels: 4

History: 1

Letters: 21

Prophecy: 1

66 Books written over 1,400 years by 40 authors in 3 languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic). So I guess that's all there is to it!

These facts are nice from a trivia perspective, however I believe there's more to it than this. Quite a bit more to be honest.

First, I dislike referring to the sections as the Old or New Testament. To the innocent, everything is innocent. To the corrupt, everything is corrupt. There is a push today to "Andy Stanley" the Word of God. The idea is we need to detach from the "Old" Testament which was written by an ignorant group of sheep herders as they were carried along by the spirit of patriarchal oppression which was dominant in that day. Also, during this time events were under the control of a maniacal, homicidal deity who gleefully oppressed the innocent and virtuous denizens of his creation. Instead, we should focus on the "New" Testament. This is where we find the lovey dovey groovy schmoovy messiah who came to give us all good vibes and validate and affirm our lived experiences. He never raised his voice nor said anything harsh. In fact the modern day culmination of all that divine love happened between August 15 to 18 in 1969 at Woodstock when LOVE was made complete. Yeah, baby!

**Sigh...anyway...**

I would encourage you to view the Bible as a modular book. What do I mean? The Law books (Genesis through Deuteronomy) is one module. The poetry/ wisdom books (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs) are another module. The same is true for each group of books listed above: History, Prophetic, Gospels, Letters, etc. Each individual group constitutes one module. These modules should be cross referenced (heavily) when you read/ study one of the other modules. This should be done contextually as a complete group.

As an example: when reading the Letters in the "New" Testament you should be referring back to the History or Prophet modules, etc, from the "Old" Testament. If you took out all of the references in the "New" Testament which are from the "Old" Testament, the "New" wouldn't exist.

I believe the Law module (Genesis through Deuteronomy) is THE foundation for the entire Bible. Even with the "New" Testament this does not change. I also believe the Law module is a blueprint for building the Church.

#### **Pentateuch/ Law Module:**

1. **Genesis:** Where do we come from? Why are things the way they are? The importance of a future vision and divine intervention working in our lives. The importance of heritage. The importance of an initial cleansing followed by selecting the path to follow: Melchizedek vs. Nimrod. The importance of trusting God to bring us to a place that will set us up for his will to be done in the future.
2. **Exodus:** We're delivered from our imprisonment/ slavery for the purpose of serving God and being a light to the world. This is where we learn to follow God and rely on Him for everything. This is also where we need to begin working out the residual issues we'll face from our desire to "return to our own vomit". This will be a very challenging but important step. Without it we simply cannot build the tabernacle/ church in the way God demands us to. This is the stage where the "old" self *must* be completely killed off and the "new" replace it. This also has overtones of being the called one to lead others out of their enslavement -a Moses character (don't let your ego go too far with this). This will be challenging since we'll have to learn to trust God completely in the face of forces considerably more powerful than us.
3. **Leviticus:** This is where we learn the principles God expects for us to implement to worship Him and build his church. Those principles being represented by the various sacrifices: wave offering-acknowledging Heaven, sin offering-acknowledging our sin, thank offering-developing a mindset of gratitude, heave offering-offering what we've been given as a gift to Heaven, fellowship offering-having communion/ fellowship with the saints, and the other offerings and practices...The idea of presenting ourselves in a way that reflects beauty and glory (the robes, etc. of the priests). Only after the first two items: Genesis, Exodus are completed, are we ready to begin building God's church/ house/ kingdom. This is where we're also obligated to develop a mindset of the binary of "clean" vs. "unclean" and train ourselves to prefer the "clean".
4. **Numbers:** This is where we reinforce the importance of heritage/ lineage. This is extremely important for our faith. **John 13:3 (NKJV)** states: 2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, **and that He had come from God and was going to God**, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. **-bold and italics mine for emphasis.** Although Jesus was existing in our mortal sphere as a mortal, he had a clear knowledge he was in fact from God. A clear knowledge of our spiritual lineage is critical for our faith. It's just as important as our biological heritage (parents, ethnic background, etc.). Grrr...of course now I have to mention the elephant in the room. Histrionic theological fashionistas will be triggered at the idea of a European heritage being acceptable (this is the genealogical "blasphemy of the Spirit") while a "minority" heritage is the most holy thing in all of creation and must be deified. One of the main points of the book of Numbers is we all (regardless of tribe) trace our lineage back through Adam, the son of God. This is why God is (present tense) judging the *nations* (plural) and not just the *nation* (singular) Israel. *Every* nation is morally obligated to obey God regardless of their willingness to acknowledge that fact or not.
5. **Deuteronomy:** This is where we reinforce our commitment to God's Law. During the process described above we should become aware of rifts in our appreciation/ commitment to God's Law which need to be filled in. This is the nature of Deuteronomy: getting rid of the dross to purify the "silver" to harden our faith even more and make it more solid.

#### **Poetry/ Wisdom Module:**

It's my opinion this section serves as the philosophical foundation for the entire Bible. The Poetry/ Wisdom Module is the one you should begin with and strive to understand before you pursue a study of any other books. This is an entirely separate study however; perhaps I'll work on that one at a later date. I would read the books in this module in the following order:

**Lamentations:** Although not considered part of the Poetry/ Wisdom literature, I've included it as it is short but deals with a lot of universal themes: being afflicted, a sense of dullness, spiritually wasting away, being entrapped, being overrun, and more. It can be a great way to start some conversations which are relevant to everyone. It ends with the admonishment to return to God so that he'll restore us to himself.

**Ecclesiastes:** This book introduces many of the philosophical elements found throughout the Bible: the circular reference, juxtaposition, the paradox. It presents some of the most fundamental questions we all have. If God why evil? What's my purpose? How do I find satisfaction? Is it wrong to pursue my own interests? In my opinion Ecclesiastes is an amazing primer for the book of Job. It's much more than can be covered here. For a more complete study of the book click this link: <https://simplifiedtheology.org/ecclesiastes/>

The linked video is being utilized simply as a visual reference. All rights are retained by the respective parties.

**Job:** This book goes into great detail about the big questions of life: if God, why evil, is God malicious because he allows/ causes suffering, what's the point of it all? These are just a few of the questions it asks. A lot of timeless themes are introduced as well. Themes such as the false accusation, the accusation vomit (being accused of many things in a rapid fire manner to "see what sticks" in 2020-present day this encompasses the list of "isms" and "o-phobes"), the Kafka Trap (where you defend yourself because you're innocent, but that defense is used as confirmation of your guilt) and others.

**Psalms:** This is where we learn it's o.k. to be real with God. Once we've opened the door to all the big questions in life, they'll inevitably be on our mind. The Psalms are great for letting us know we can express these things very honestly to God.

**Proverbs:** Once we've completed all of the above steps (in order), the natural result is a desire to seek wisdom and understanding. Proverbs helps train us in how to think. It helps us focus on what God finds most important and just as if not more importantly, *why*.

**Song of Songs:** Once all of the previously mentioned building blocks are in place, we need to develop a sense of belonging and understand how and where we fit it. Solomon's Song of Songs is perfect for that.

### **History Module:**

**Joshua-Esther:** These books give us the time and place of all the events. They let us know these people, places and things are historical and give us an idea of when and where they did in fact take place. It also reinforces the blessings for obedience and the discipline process for disobedience to the **Pentateuch/ Law Module**.

### **Prophetic Module:**

**Isaiah-Malachi:** I simply refer to them as "the Prophets". I don't like distinguishing between "major" and "minor" prophets. It makes it seem the message of one is somehow *more* important than the other. That's simply not the case. Micah (my favorite) is seven short chapters but is brutally poignant. These are the licensed "watchmen" appointed by God to critique the nation of Israel (as well as the nations around them) and their religious leaders specifically.

### **"New" Testament Gospel Module:**

**Matthew, Mark, Luke, John:** This puts the cap on everything which has come before. Matthew establishes Jesus' authority over the Church including it's leadership. He spends a lot of time correcting them directly. This is a continuation of where the prophets left off 400 years prior. Mark is like a journal of all the things Jesus did, showing our faith is meant to be lived in very practical ways. Luke gives an insane level of detail about events showing us these things were real, not imaginary. John establishes Jesus' deity and timelessness. We have four perspectives to give a full picture of one individual.

### **"New" Testament History Module:**

**Acts:** This is the history of the "New" Testament church. It helps set the stage for the time and place and to introduce some new characters, etc. I would recommend reading the Pentateuch/ Law Module then the Gospel Module then Acts. Keep in mind the philosophical idea from Ecclesiastes: there's nothing new under the sun, what has already been done will be done again... When reading the Pentateuch/ Law Module (especially Leviticus) keep in mind the principles being taught via the sacrifices/ practices, etc. as opposed to the physical practices (which are no longer applicable).

### **"New" Testament Letters Module:**

**Romans-Jude:** These are like the professors' commentary on the text book (which is *everything* up to this point). They talk about [insert issue here] and how it should be properly viewed/ handled in the context of the text book (*everything* up to this point).

### **"New" Testament Prophetic Module:**

**Revelation:** Think of this book as an epilogue. It's partly a letter but also a behind the scenes look at how the story finalizes.

In order to become proficient and achieve mastery with the sword, the duelist must have an intimate knowledge of the parts and their function. For a visual representation of this please watch the following (start at the 1 min 50 sec mark): <https://youtu.be/>

Disclaimer:

Masayuki Shimabukuro, Carl Long, et al do not endorse and are in no way affiliated with [www.simplifiedtheology.org](http://www.simplifiedtheology.org). Likewise, [www.simplifiedtheology.org](http://www.simplifiedtheology.org) does not necessarily endorse the aforementioned parties and has no affiliation with them of any kind.

## Proper Grip:



Image courtesy pictosmith via www.istock.com

When in (spiritual) combat against the forces of darkness: the spirits and principalities, etc., having a proper grip on the "Sword" is a matter of life and death. The following are a few principles to get you started in your training.

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 ***for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.***

*-2 Peter 1:19-21 (NKJV)-bold and italics mine for emphasis.*

We must acknowledge that the "Sword" *is* (present tense) divinely inspired. It does *not* need to be updated or perverted in any other way by hyper-intellectualized imbecilic pseudo-intellectuals who mistakenly believe their judgment of the Word of God to be outdated, or no longer culturally relevant, is somehow valid. Remember, the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (accusing the Spirit of doing wrong) will *not* be forgiven in this life or the one to come. This is *not* a game.

**I am the Lord...**(all quotes from the NKJV)

***Leviticus 11:34***

***Leviticus 11:44***

***Leviticus 11:45***

**+ 29 others...just in the book of Leviticus**

The point...the need to acknowledge that, when God commands something, it should be done for no other reason than he says so. The authority for the command (not suggestion) begins **and** ends with God. **Period.**

37 ***But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'*** For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

*-2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)-bold and italics mine for emphasis.*

We're admonished to keep things simple by working with a black and white paradigm. "Gray areas" are a creation of Satan (and his minions) to artificially manufacture confusion, double standards, uncertainty etc. where none exists in reality.

1 "Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! ***First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*** 6 "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

*-Matthew 7:1-6 (NKJV)-bold and italics mine for emphasis.*

To properly use the "Sword", we must apply it *first* to ourselves, then *assist* others with their issues (which we ourselves can relate to) because, only after we remove the obstacle from our own vision, we are able to see clearly to help them.

Improper use of the "Sword" (which will result in a poor cut and be ineffective) is to compel others to change whatever issue they face while remaining blind to it ourselves. What does it say? If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the pit. (**Matthew 15:14**)

A proper grip is critical for attaining a proper cut in order to cut sin out of the body: [https://youtu.be/lddhRjqmcSg?si=XPBzXg-sbnq\\_YKXe](https://youtu.be/lddhRjqmcSg?si=XPBzXg-sbnq_YKXe)

These are a few ideas mentioned briefly to get you started in understanding how to "cut" properly with the "Sword". For a more detailed discussion, please read our study entitled: "Biblical Interpretation-Foundation of our Faith Pt. 2" in the library by clicking the following link: <https://simplifiedtheology.org/print/>

Disclaimer:

Masayuki Shimabukuro, Carl Long, et al do not endorse and are in no way affiliated with [www.simplifiedtheology.org](http://www.simplifiedtheology.org). Likewise, [www.simplifiedtheology.org](http://www.simplifiedtheology.org) does not necessarily endorse the aforementioned parties and has no affiliation with them of any kind. The linked video is being utilized simply as a visual reference. All rights are retained by the respective parties.

# Iado:



Samurai images courtesy pictosmith via www.istock.com.

## Iaido

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, *and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you*, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

*-1Peter 3:15-16 (NKJV) bold and italics mine for emphasis*

**Iaido:** (居合道), abbreviated *iai* (居合), is a Japanese martial art that emphasizes being aware and capable of quickly drawing the sword and responding to sudden attacks. *-definition courtesy of Wikipedia.*

For a visual example of the practice please click the following link: [https://youtu.be/u0uu8Ty7\\_TQ?si=9dVi7kqWoIwVX2as](https://youtu.be/u0uu8Ty7_TQ?si=9dVi7kqWoIwVX2as)

### 1. "There is no truth."

This statement claims to be true. Therefore, it must be false. When someone makes a statement to you, the first defense should be to see if the claim violates its own premise. Or, if their argument negates the premise they're presenting. If the statement/ argument contradicts itself, ignore it. Then, reflect it back to the one making the claim/ statement. This is the Proverbs 26:4-5 defense.

4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him. 5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

*-Proverbs 26:4-5 (NKJV)*

"Do not answer a fool according to his folly..." is an admonishment to not become entangled in the errors of others. Once you're able to secure a stable position outside that chaos, challenge the individual with their own philosophy/ values; "Answer a fool according to his folly...". In other words, judge them (properly not hypocritically) by the standard they've judged you, and observe what happens.

### 2. Where did you get that information? How did you come to that conclusion?

Has the individual done any work to come to this conclusion or are they just acting as a Tik-Tok theologian? Is their conclusion something they believe legitimately, or are they regurgitating the slogan of the day with which they've made the unintentional mistake of allowing themselves to be programmed? Keep in mind this will cut both ways. Be sure you're able to defend yourself as well if they ask you to do so.

### 3. What do you mean by that?

This question is especially important today as word games seem to be the norm. One example is "justice". Two of the most common ways this manifests is the following: 1. equivocation, 2. the Motte and Bailey Strategy.

**Equivocation:** *see equivocate*

**Equivocate:** 1. to use equivocal language esp. with the intent to deceive 2. to avoid committing oneself in what one says *syn* see LIE *-Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 11th ed.*

**Equivocal:** **1a.** subject to two or more interpretations and usu. with the intent to mislead or confuse **b.** uncertain as an indication or sign **2a.** of uncertain nature or classification **b.** of uncertain disposition toward a person or thing **c.** of doubtful advantage, genuineness or moral rectitude *syn* see *OBSCURE-Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 11th ed.*

The Motte and Bailey Strategy is one in which a provocative claim is made such as, "We *must* institute a global policy of 'climate justice' or we'll be subject to a zombie apocalypse!" When the provocative claim is challenged for the nonsense it is, the individual falls back to a safe position, "You're against 'justice'?" In the words of Greta Thunberg, "How dare YOU!" This is simply a strategy to "poison the well" against you and slander and defame you while maintaining a facade of virtue.

#### **4. Why do you care?**

This is a fair question for the individual to answer. Why do they feel so strongly about this? Is this a genuine position they hold or, as mentioned above, are they just an armchair slacktivist/ Tik-Tok theologian? Are they truly invested in this ideology or are they just using it to cosplay cultural revolutionary?

#### **5. If Christianity were true, would you become a Christian?**

This is one great question to get to the bottom line. This question should be asked of those who claim to have a religious affiliation. Slacktivism has become a fashionable replacement for genuinely living the faith.

#### **6. What's your point?**

As with #5 above, this is a great way to clear up the confusion and get to the point. One of the most common tactics for those "educated" beyond their actual level of intelligence is the "word salad"/ word vomit/ fast talk. This is when the individual is regurgitating words (usually multi-syllabic, "smart" sounding words) to overwhelm the listener. It's also referred to as "baffling with bulls###". If you need examples of this, look-up Kamala Harris or Eric Michael Dyson on You-Tube.

When attacked by the slacktivists: 1. more than likely the attack is primarily to boost their standing in their peer group as opposed to being a desire for legitimate conversation, 2. they will turn very nasty very quickly because their ideology is superficial and so they must attack you verbally and potentially physically, 3. compel clarity-don't let them devolve the conversation into chaos, force them to stick to definitions, 4. keep reflecting their standard back to them, 5. don't throw your pearls to pigs. Know when to withdraw. When Jesus stood before Pilate he was condemned although everyone knew he was innocent. The point was to pacify the mob not to do what was right. The same will be true when you face the slacktivist mob. The biggest "mistake" you'll make is pointing out their error. They will make you suffer for it, and believe themselves justified (you weren't "nice"-so you did it to yourself).

Do what you can try to get through to them, for their own eternal sake. Remember the example of Stephen...

Above all, practice with these techniques so you'll be ready to defend your faith.