

# GROWING IN GRACE

“...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10 (NIV)

## HOW THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT PIERCES DARK PROBLEMS IN OUR LIVES

*Series: Dressing for Success: Standing Strong in an Evil Day (Part 7)*

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**Ephesians 6:17 (NIV)** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

A. The sword of the Spirit that is noted in verse 17 is the weapon that we fight with in order to pierce times of darkness in our lives.

1. It is a weapon.
2. It is a word from God: The Greek word for “word” is *rhema* and emphasizes a personal word from God to you.
3. It is birthed by the Spirit.

### **Mark 5:21-42**

B. The stories of Jairus and the woman who was bleeding internally have certain things in common:

1. Both of these people were devastated by what was happening in their lives.
2. Both of these people held in their hearts a specific promise from God.
3. Both of these people had to hold on to the promise of God despite overwhelming emotions.
4. Both of these people forced themselves to believe in Jesus despite the odds against them.

C. A fundamental truth is that God’s intervention in our lives comes when we have heard His promise and act in obedience.

D. Let’s look at 2 major principles for allowing God’s promises to pierce the dark times of our lives:

## **I. GOD'S PROMISES PIERCE PROBLEMS WHEN WE DEPEND SOLELY UPON JESUS**

- A. We can see the principle clearly in the woman who was bleeding internally, and in Jairus - they turned fully to Jesus and His direction for their lives.
- B. Virtually every person will come to the place that their hope rests in God alone.

## **II. GOD'S PROMISES PIERCE PROBLEMS WHEN WE EMBRACE HIS PERSONAL PROMISE**

- A. In every believer's life there will come a time when God speaks a personal promise, and we will be asked to trust Him despite everything else.
  - 1. It may be related to standing against the tide.
  - 2. It may be related to standing for His intervention.

### **APPLICATION:**

**Luke 1:37 (NASB)** For nothing will be impossible with God.”

- A. The literal emphasis of this verse is that no single word from God spoken into our lives is impossible.
- B. When we emphasize that God is faithful, what we are saying is that God is faithful to what He has spoken.
- C. There will be times when you will need God's intervention to pierce dark problems in your life:
  - 1. Turn fully to Him in hope.
  - 2. When He speaks, listen to what He says and trust His faithfulness.