



## SERMON NOTES

# It's Your Move

## Dead Ends are Doorways - Part I

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Life can resemble the game of chess. When you make strategic moves to advance your position you can eventually checkmate your opponent and win the game. Life is the board, the obstacles in your life are your opponents. Your moves are the choices you make that can lead you to victory.

**1 Samuel 14:1 (NKJV) Now it happened one day that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistines' garrison that is on the other side." But he did not tell his father.**

The Israelite army reached a dead end situation in 1 Sam 13-14. King Saul was on the losing end of a lopsided battle with the Philistines who were equipped with 30,000 chariots and a cavalry of 6,000 with countless infantrymen. Israel's army had 600 soldiers with no weapons. Only Saul and his son, Jonathan had swords.

**1 Samuel 13:22 (NJB) So it was that on the day of the battle, no one in the army with Saul and Jonathan was equipped with either sword or spear; only Saul and his son Jonathan were so equipped.**

Many Christians are ill-equipped for the spiritual battles of 21st Century Life.

Churches are to evangelize the lost and edify the saved.

**Ephesians 4:11-14 (NKJV) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,**

### 1. FOR EQUIPPING THE BELIEVER

Equipping: Only here in the New Testament (its verb form does appear in other passages; Mat. 4:21 - mending nets). In classical Greek - refitting a ship or setting a bone.

Word Studies in the New Testament.

To equip; to perfect; to train; to equip for service and ministry. In fact, his primary task is to be an equipper, a person who makes disciples and prepares others to serve Christ.

Practical Word Studies in The New Testament.

### 2. FOR EDIFYING THE BELIEVER

Architecture, i.e. (concrete) a structure; figurative confirmation :- building, edify (-ication, -ing).

Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.

### 3. FOR ESTABLISHING THE BELIEVER

Isaiah 2:4 (NKJV)

"...beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks."

### **Nehemiah 4:13 (NKJV)**

**“Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.”**

### **DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SWORD AND SPEAR**

A sword slashes and a spear stabs. The sword is compared to God’s Word - a “sharp two-edged sword.”

**Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

### **Ephesians 6:17 (NCV)**

**17 Accept God’s salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

The Holy Spirit as been compared to a peaceful dove, anointing oil, mighty wind, flaming fire but here as a sword.  
“TAKE THE SWORD! TAKE IT!!! Don’t leave it behind!”

### **HOW DO WE “TAKE” THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word

1 Timothy 4:13 (CEV)

13 Until I arrive, be sure to keep on reading the Scriptures in worship, and don’t stop preaching and teaching.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ on God’s Word

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word

Deuteronomy 11:18 (CEV)

18 Memorize these laws and think about them. Write down copies and tie them to your wrists and your foreheads to help you obey them.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word

**Psalms 119:46 (NAB)**

**46 I will speak openly of your decrees without fear even before kings.**

### **Acts 4:29 (NCV)**

**29 And now, Lord, listen to their threats. Lord, help us, your servants, to speak your word without fear.**

A spear represents judgment. You must be able to judge between good and evil. We do not judge people; that is God’s job, but you better pass judgment on sin.

### **Malachi 3:18 (NCV)**

**18 You will again see the difference between good and evil people, between those who serve God and those who don’t.**

### **Joshua 8:18 (NKJV)**

**18 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Stretch out the spear that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand.” And Joshua stretched out the spear that was in his hand toward the city.**

### **Joshua 8:26 (NKJV)**

**26 For Joshua did not draw back his hand, with which he stretched out the spear, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai.**