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## Switching from Defense to Offense: Making Excellent Use of the Sword of the Spirit *A Commentary by Jason Curry*



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As a former athlete, I am an avid fan of various sports (e.g., football, basketball and baseball), specific teams within a sport (e.g., the Buffalo Bills, the Chicago Cubs or the New York Yankees) and the specific positions that athletes play within the sports (e.g., linebacker, forward or pitcher). There are some exceptions to the use of the terms offense and defense in sports, but winning a game is usually the result of a successful combination of outstanding offensive skills (e.g., making a jump-shot) and defense skills (e.g., making an important tackle). Some coaches pride themselves on being outstanding defense coordinators, but the truth of the matter is that the final score would be zero to zero if no one used their offensive skills to score points. Teams can only win if they play offense, and in this respect, an athlete's offensive skills are as important as or more important than his or her defensive

skills. There is a tremendous similarity between the use of offensive and defensive skills that lead to success in sports and the use of offensive and defensive skills that lead to success in our Christian walk. In my discussion of the "full armor" that Paul talks about in Ephesians 6:11-17, throughout the past month I have described the armor that is necessary to use a good defense in our fight against spiritual wickedness (e.g., the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness and the shield of faith). However, it is important to note that God has given us a tremendous offensive weapon in our fight against evil, sin and spiritual wickedness: the sword of the spirit. It is the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17), which will give us the power to "cut through" the things that negatively impact our spiritual lives.

The sword of the spirit, or the word of God, is the bible. The

bible has sixty-six books, but as Christians, we should put an emphasis on the words of Jesus that are found in the New Testament. Jesus' words can help us overcome the debilitating disease of despair, the crippling contours of confusion, the paralyzing process of procrastination, the menacing maze of mean-spiritedness and the haunting hostility of hate. King David said that the word of God is "a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path (Psalm 119:105)." In fact, Jesus is the "Word, that became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14)."

As we attempt to win the fight against spiritual wickedness, let us make excellent use to the sword of the spirit, for it will truly help us to play and excellent offense in our attempt to be all that God intends for us to be.