

Sword of the Spirit Close Out

September 2026

I would like to thank everyone for understanding my need for a summer sabbatical. 😊

Rest is a good thing; we should all try it from time to time.

*I encourage you to do a recap December 25-April 22
& if you agree repeat this:*

“I come out of agreement with procrastination, slothfulness & fatigue and I embrace the accelerating power of God by Faith in Jesus Name!”

I RECEIVE MOMENTUM NOW
IN JESUS NAME!!!!!!

“Apostle Marlon Hester~

AS THIS SERIES HAS COME TO AN END

I want you to know it has been a joy as well as a learning experience for me as we walked through this together.

You know I can't wrap things up without giving us all something to study further. 😊

TWO PEOPLE CAN HEAR THE SAME SCRIPTURE....

Both can understand what it says, both can even quote it correctly, yet they may experience that Word very differently because one has received it with faith while the other has only received information.

And so, our Deeper Dive question becomes...

What happens after I hear the
Word?

Ask ourselves:

1. Do I believe what God has said?

2. Does what I believe change how I respond?

3. Am I agreeing with Scripture only when circumstances seem to support it? _____

4. What Scripture do I know intellectually but still struggle to trust personally? _____

We must take up our Sword

Ephesians 6:17 says to take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. That word “take” is worth taking a closer look.

The sword is available, but the believer must take it up. Owning a Bible is not the same as using the Word. Knowing the Word is not the same as bringing Scripture into the place where fear, temptation, discouragement, confusion, or opposition is occurring.

1. What does taking up the sword look like in everyday life?

It may mean remembering what God said when emotions are saying something different.

It may mean praying the Word.

It may mean refusing to allow fear to become the final authority.

It may mean making a decision because of what the Word teaches rather than because of what our circumstances may suggest.

2. Having Faith Does Not Pretend Our Battles Are Not Real

This is important. We should understand Biblical faith does not require us as women to deny what we see, feels, or experiences. Our faith will determine which voice has final authority.

David saw Goliath. He did not pretend that Goliath was small. The three Hebrew boys knew the furnace was real.



Abraham understood the natural impossibility of what God had promised.

Faith did not erase the facts.

Faith kept the facts from becoming greater than God. And so, if and when fear, disappointment, past experiences, another person's opinion, financial circumstances, age, failure, sickness, rejection, or uncertainty come our way... we should have a scripture that will speak directly to that circumstance.

3. Jesus Demonstrated How the Sword Is To Be Used

Study Matthew chapter 4 for a deeper dive. When Jesus was tempted, He repeatedly answered: “It is written.”



We can't simply know Bible verses, like Jesus we are to know how to use the Word correctly, understand the will of our Father, and remain submitted to Him.

Using the Word correctly requires truth, understanding, faith, and obedience. Study Matthew 4:1-11 looking closely at each temptation:

1. What was Satan trying to accomplish?
2. What Scripture did Jesus use?
3. Why was that Scripture appropriate?
4. What did Jesus refuse to do?
5. What can I learn from His response?

If we truly believe this Scripture, what should change in our responses?

Having faith must eventually produce a response. We learn in James 2 that faith without works is dead.



If we say we have faith in God and His word, our decisions should not contradict the word. The word that we say we believe.

- Faith may produce a desire to pray.
- Faith may produce patience.
- Faith may produce obedience.
- Faith may require us to stop doing something.
- Faith may require us to begin something.
- And Faith may require us to simply stand still when everything in us wants to react.

4. Let's Build a Personal Battle Scripture Arsenal

Locate five areas where you know should take a stand spiritually. Then choose one scripture that will counter each area.

Take a look at these examples of taking a stand with Battle Scriptures:

Battle Area	What I Tend to Believe or Feel	What God Says	My Battle Scripture
Fear	I do not know what is going to happen.	God has not given me the spirit of fear.	2 Timothy 1:7
Anxiety	Everything depends on me.	I can cast my cares upon Him.	1 Peter 5:7
Identity	I feel inadequate.	I am God's workmanship.	Ephesians 2:10
Discouragement	Nothing is changing.	I should not grow weary in doing good.	Galatians 6:9
Direction	I do not know what to do.	God directs the path of those who trust Him.	Proverbs 3:5–6

5. Going Forward What Will Your Faith Look Like?

What would you like for it to look like? You are the one to make that decision. My prayer is that moving forward you will continually seek to keep your faith strong.



In closing, I want to leave you with some questions for you to reflect upon.

Take your time.

Write out your responses.

I encourage you to allow your answers to strengthen your faith-walk as you continue to press toward the mark of the high calling.

- ☐ What is the sword I need to become more skilled at using is...
- ☐ One Scripture I know but need to believe more deeply is...
- ☐ One battle in which I have allowed circumstances to speak louder than the Word of God is...
- ☐ The Word of God says...
- ☐ Because I believe what God has said, I will...
- ☐ The Battle Scripture I am carrying forward from this series is...
- ☐ Is the Word merely in my Bible, or has it become alive in me?



Please join us next month as
we look to start our new
series...

Build and Defend

