

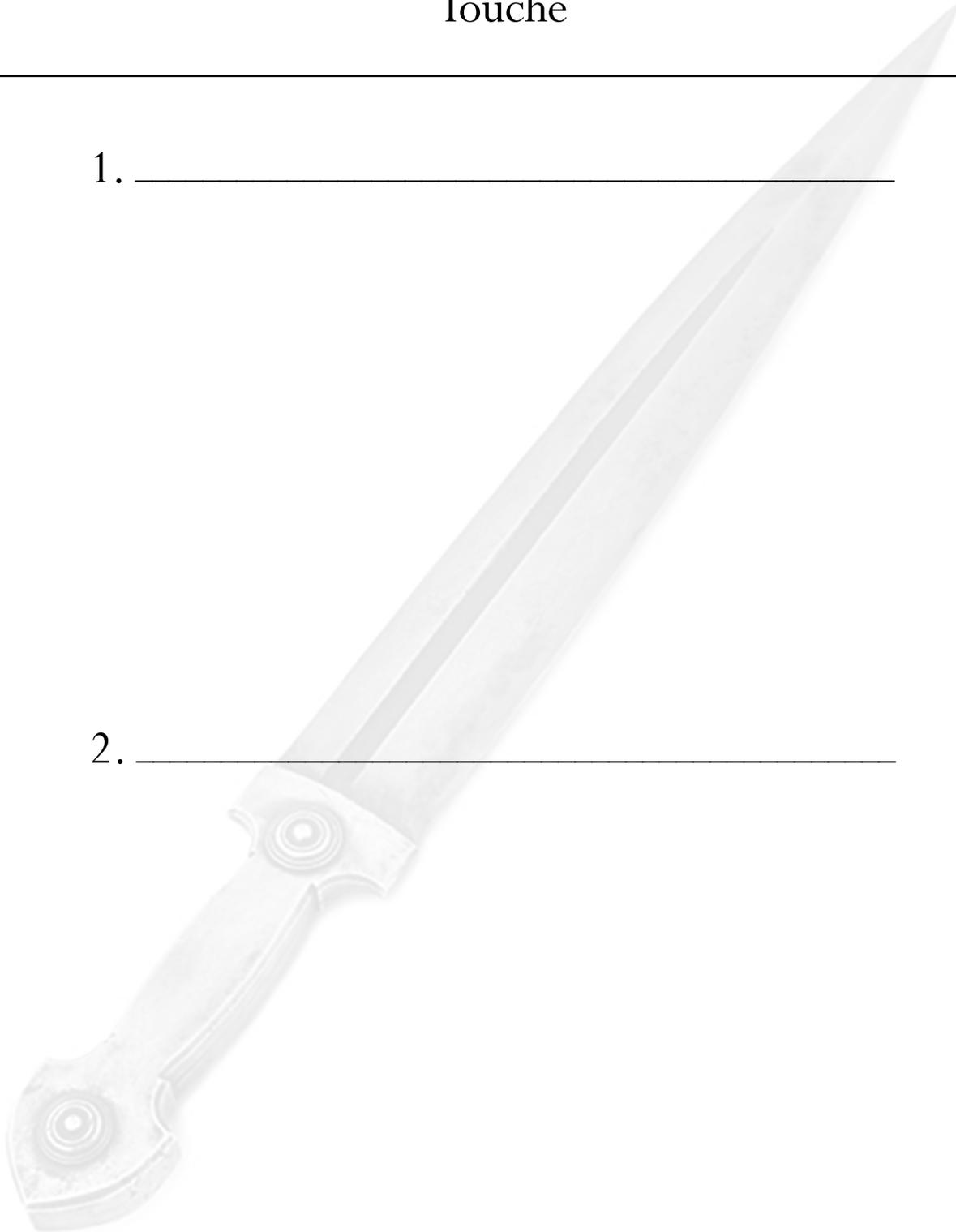
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# TAKE THE NEXT STEP...

These questions and daily devotions are provided for mid-week Community Group discussion and personal spiritual growth. Prayerfully writing out your answers will help you experience real life transformation as you dig deeper into the spiritual truths of God's word and today's message. You can also obtain this document in electronic form at [www.pacificcoastchurch.org](http://www.pacificcoastchurch.org) by clicking on the sermon tab.

For information on how you can be part of PCC's Community Group Network, please call us at (949) 940-2600 or visit our website.

## COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION:

- pt. 1**
- Briefly review the 5 parts of spiritual armor we've discussed prior to this week. Why is a sword different?
  - In what way do our words reveal our personalities? How does this relate to God and the bible?
  - Why is it critical to know the bible more than an ancient book? How can undervaluing the bible be risky?
  - What is your experience with undervaluing the bible? How has this week's message encouraged you?

- pt. 2**
- Knowing that a sword can injure or disable an opponent in battle, what can we conclude about the bible?
  - Why is Paul's definition of the "word" (i.e. rhema) important when describing the sword of the Spirit?
  - How does this relate to being familiar with God's word and spiritual warfare? Give examples.
  - What specific steps will you take in order to become more proficient in handling the sword of the Spirit?

## PERSONAL DAILY DEVOTIONS:

### MONDAY – READ EPHESIANS 6:17B, GENESIS 1:3, PSALM 33:6, JOHN 1:1,14, REVELATION 19:15-16



- How do words reveal the personality of an individual? Explain John 1:1, 14 in terms of this truth.
- Based on today's reading, what did you learn about the strength and power of God's word?
- How does this encourage you in bible study? How can this help you in spiritual warfare?

### TUESDAY – READ EPHESIANS 6:17B, HEBREWS 4:12, 1 PETER 1:20-21



- Explain why the bible is more than a history book or ancient document of wisdom literature.
- How would you respond to someone who says the bible is just a book written by men?
- What has been your experience with being impacted by the bible? Give two examples.

### WEDNESDAY - READ EPHESIANS 6:17B, MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23



- Explain the Parable of the Sower in terms of spiritual warfare and what was taking place.
- What does this teach you about Satan's view of God's word? Why is this important to understand?
- What are the implications of this parable when it comes to you studying God's word?

### THURSDAY – READ EPHESIANS 6:17B, 2 TIMOTHY 2:15-16, 3:14-17



- What is Paul encouraging Timothy to do in order to remain spiritually healthy and live a godly life?
- How does this relate to the sword of the Spirit and battling Satan?
- How can you apply Paul's encouragement to Timothy in your own life and studying God's word?

### FRIDAY – READ EPHESIANS 6:17B, 1:13, 5:26, MATTHEW 4:1-11



- Describe the three areas where Satan tried to tempt Jesus away from the Father. How did Jesus respond?
- What was the result? How was Jesus modeling what it means to use the sword of the Spirit?
- What insight can you derive from Matthew 4:6? Why is this important when it comes to bible study?

### SATURDAY – READ EPHESIANS 6:17B, HEBREWS 5:11-14



- What is the author of Hebrews confronting in today's reading? How is growth being measured?
- How do you feel when you reflect back on your spiritual growth in 2011 and your time in God's word?
- Why is this important to do? What can happen when you don't? What will you do differently in 2012?



### MEMORY VERSE:

<sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.