

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

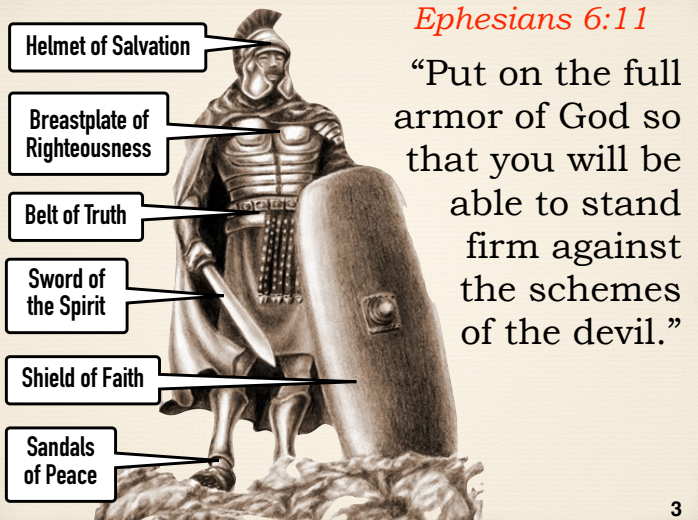
**Ephesians 6:17**  
**Lesson #53**  
**Logos and Rhema**  
**08/19/2018**

“Truth that is not (rightly) applied is no better than error and may be a whole lot more damaging. The Devil is a better theologian than any of us and is the Devil still.”

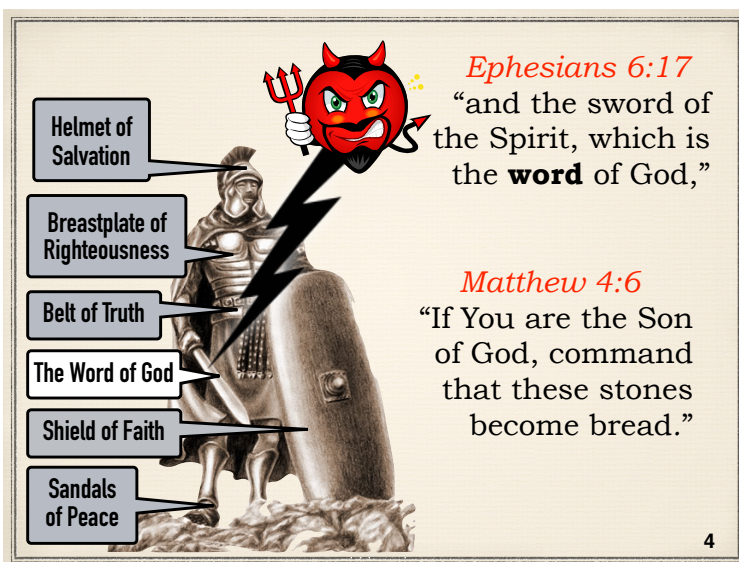
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**Ephesians 6:17**  
“and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word** of God,”

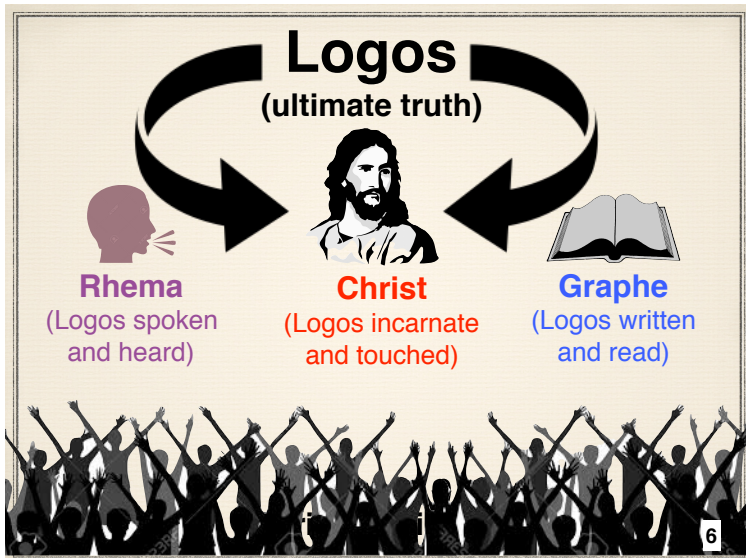
**Matthew 4:4**  
“But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every **word** that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”

**Logos - Substance**  
**Rhema - Spoken**  
**Graphe - Scripture**



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*Ephesians 6:17*  
“and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **(spoken) word** of God,”

*Matthew 4:4*  
“But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every **(spoken) word** that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”

Graphe - Scripture  
Logos - Substance

**Rhema - Spoken**

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- It is hard to know which Greek term is used in any N.T. text, (even by looking at the context).

*Acts 10:44*  
“While Peter was still speaking these **words (R)**, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the **message (L)**.”

*Hebrews 12:18-19*  
“you have not come to . . . the blast of a trumpet and the sound of **words (R)** which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further **word (L)** should be spoken to them.”

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*Hebrews 4:12*  
“For the **word (L)** of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

*John 6:63*  
“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the **words (R)** that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”

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*1 Peter 1*  
“<sup>23</sup>for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring **word (L)** of God. <sup>24</sup> For, “All flesh is like grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off. <sup>25</sup> But the **word (R)** of the Lord endures forever. And this is the **word (R)** which was preached to you.”

- The terms are used interchangeably in the Greek translation of the O.T.
- We should not give these terms a rigid technical meaning.

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**Different emphasis bring different challenges.**

<b>Rhema</b> (Logos spoken and heard)	<b>Christ</b> (Logos incarnate and relational)	<b>Graphe</b> (Logos written and read)
<b>Form emphasis:</b> “There is power in just saying the right words.”	<b>Subjective emphasis:</b> “Relationship without “truth propositions.””	<b>Propositional emphasis:</b> “Bibliolatry”
Catholic, “High Church” Protestant & Charismatic	Neo-orthodox Main line Protestant	Fundamentalist & Evangelical Protestant

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## What can we say about "Rhema"

- It is the speaking of God's Spirit and the hearing of our spirit.
- It is the basis of the Scripture in that the human authors wrote what God's Spirit had revealed to them.
- It is ultimately a call to the truth of the kingdom of God.
- Jesus quoted from the Scripture in his confrontation with Satan.

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The Word of God is inspired  
but its use is fruitful, only when  
rightly understood and applied.

### 1 Timothy 1

“<sup>6</sup> For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, <sup>7</sup> wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.

<sup>8</sup> But we know that the Law is good, **if one uses it lawfully,**”

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### 2 Timothy 2:15

“<sup>15</sup> Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **handling accurately the word of truth.**”

Correct understanding calls for  
“diligence” (work or study) **not  
superficial or casual impressions.**

A person can believe the Bible is  
inspired, inherent, and authoritative  
**yet be Satan's scribe in using it.**

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“Fundamentalism has fallen  
into the error of textualism,  
which is simply orthodoxy  
without the Holy Spirit -  
“Bible taught” but  
not “Spirit taught.”



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“Gnosticism is the error  
of placing authority in  
an inner, personal,  
light of “the Spirit”  
apart from Scripture.”

### Colossians 2:18

“taking his stand on visions he  
has seen, inflated without cause  
by his fleshly mind,”

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### Matthew 4

“<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread. <sup>4</sup> **But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word (R) that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”**”

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### Note Jesus' responses:

- Life needs more than a material basis for true "shalom."

"Humanity has always wondered about the meaning of life . . . I feel no higher purpose than to perpetuate the survival of DNA . . . life is no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference."

Richard Dawkins



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### Note Jesus' responses:

- Life needs more than a material reservoir for shalom.

John 6:63

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the **words (R) that I have spoken to you** are spirit and are life."

The special revelation (Word of God) opens the path to "abundant life".

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"<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took Him into the holy city; and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down for it is written, 'He will give His angels charge concerning You;' and 'On their hands they will bear You up, Lest You strike Your foot against a stone.' <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

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### Note Jesus' responses:

- Life needs more than a material reservoir for shalom.
- Life is about our serving God not God serving us.

John 21:18

"Truly, truly, I say to you (**Peter**), when you were younger, you used to gird yourself, and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go."

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"<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; <sup>9</sup> and he said to Him, "All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.' <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him."

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### Note Jesus' responses:

- Life needs more than a material reservoir for shalom.
- Life is about our serving God not God serving us.
- Life is not just about the ends but also the means to those ends.

John 14:6

"I am **the way**, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."

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### *Some wayward means:*

- **Superficial power** (political, social, economic, etc.).
- **Superficial holiness** (looking good outwardly only).
- **Superficial values** (favoring the rich, famous, and powerful of the world).
- **Superficial goals** (temporal comfort, happiness, position, and success).

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### *Observe Jesus' response:*

Put off	Put on
Bread alone will not sustain true life.	The word of God nourishes true life.
Leading God is presumptuous.	Following God is discipleship.
The ends do not justify any means.	Jesus is both the goal and the way.

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### *Note Jesus' responses:*

- Life needs more than a material reservoir for shalom.
- Life is about our serving God not God serving us.
- Life is not just about the ends but also the means to those ends.
- Jesus based this on Biblical revelation not church authority or private knowledge.

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### *Basic rules of wise use of the Word of God*

- Become familiar with the Bible.
- Listen to the insights of those who are credible teachers.
- Keep the main thing the main thing.
- Maintain a sound mind, a pure heart, a disciplined walk and godly company.
- **Be a Berean.**

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# THE BEREANS

Acts 17:11

received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.

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