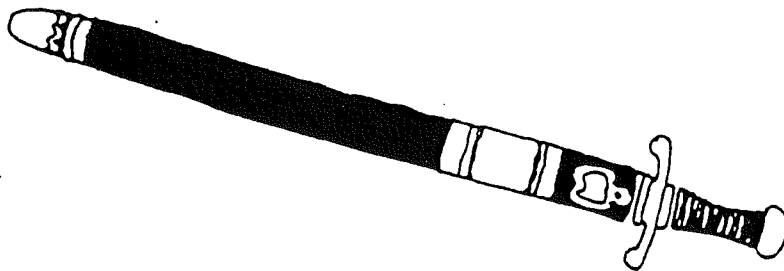


THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

(How The Word Of God Defeats The Enemy)



The Word of God

- Comforts in Affliction
- Cleanses Us Inwardly
- Conforms Us To Christ
- Conquers Enemy Lies

*"For the Word of God is quick and powerful,
and sharper than any two-edged sword." (Hebrews 4:12)*

Bill Kirk

STANDING VICTORIOUSLY AGAINST THE ENEMY

(Message #6)

Text: Ephesians 6:10-18

Subject: "The Power Of The Word Of God"

(v.17) "...And the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God".

(Thus Far In Our Series:)

- #1. "**The Shield Of Faith**" (How faith will overcome the fiery darts of doubt, despair and depression in battle).
- #2. "**The Breastplate Of Righteousness**" (How Jesus gives us right standing before God and silences the voices of accusation and condemnation).
- #3. "**The Girdle Of Truthfulness**" (How integrity holds your life together and allows the Word of God to fulfill its intention in you).
- #4. "**The Helmet Of Salvation**" (How knowing that your salvation is full salvation, redeeming your past (justification) your present (sanctification) and your future (glorification)).
- #5. "**The Power Of Pentecostal Praying**" (How praying "in the Spirit" builds up your inner man and equips you for battle).

This Morning: "The Power Of The Word Of God"

Question: Pastor, what is the Sword of the Spirit?

Question: Why is the Word called a sword?

Question: How does the Word work like a sword?

Question: Why the emphasis on the Spirit (and the sword)?

Question: And, what difference does it make in my life today?

Introduction

Fact: The sword Paul is referring to here is the (MACHAIRA).

Fact: It varied in length from 6 to 18 inches.

Fact: It was the common sword carried by the Roman foot soldier.

Fact: It was the principal weapon used in hand to hand combat.

Fact: It was carried in a sheath attached to the belt.

Fact: It was always close at hand, ready for use to defeat the enemy!

- ◆ This was the sword used by those who arrested Jesus in the Garden. (Matthew 26:47)
- ◆ This was the sword used by Peter to cut off an ear. (Matthew 26:51)
- ◆ This was the sword used by Herod's men to execute James. (Acts 12:2)

Question: But pastor, what's it have to do with me?

Question: How does the Word of God equip me for battle?

Question: What does the Word of God do in my own life personally and practically in the journey?

(v. 17) "...And the Sword of The Spirit, which is The Word of God".

The Sword Of The Spirit

Question: Pastor, why is the Bible (the Word of God) called the Sword of the Spirit?

Answer: (2 Reasons)

- #1. Like a sword, the Word of God is able to penetrate and cut away everything that opposes God in your life.
- #2. It's called the Sword "of the Spirit" because the Holy Spirit is the agent that makes it effectual in its working.

(In Other Words)

- #1. The Holy Spirit is the **author** of the Sword (and)
- #2. The Holy Spirit is the **agent** to guarantee its working.

(In Other Words)

- #1. The Bible is useless (a dead letter) unless we are open to the Holy Spirit's working.
- #2. The Bible is unproductive (unfruitful) unless we are willing for the Holy Spirit to subdue every internal enemy.

- (Simply) ♦ For the Spirit to accompany the sword (and defeat every enemy) I must be willing to obey what the Spirit shows me in the Word. (I Repeat)
- ♦ "Our progress in God will go no further than our obedience takes us". (Bro. "B")

So Let's Settle It Once And For All:

- ♦ The Word of God (or Sword of the Spirit) is accompanied by a power from heaven to make the Word effective in your life. (Repeat)

The Question Today Is:

How is the Sword of the Spirit part of the armor that enables me to stand in battle (and overcome every fiery dart of the evil one)? (3 Ways)

I. The Word Of God Is Our "Personal Development" All Read: (James 1:19-25)

Fact: James reveals why some believers do not develop and grow.

Fact: James reveals that all spiritual growth is the result of a proper relationship to God (through His Word).

Question: How does the Sword of the Spirit (the Word) accelerate our spiritual growth?

Answer: By our cooperation with God.

God Reveals The...

(4 Ways To Receive the Word)

#1. Receive with a listening ear.

"Let every man be swift to hear" (v. 19) which means:

- ♦ Have an open ear and be eager to hear and listen to the Word of God.

#2. Receive with a quiet tongue.

"...Slow to speak" (v. 19b) which means:

- ◆ Be slow and refrain yourself from arguing with God when His Word comes to your heart.

#3. Receive with a calm spirit.

“...Slow to wrath; for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God” (v. 19c, 20)

Question: What does it mean in (v. 20), that the wrath (anger) of man worketh not the righteousness of God?

Answer: It means something powerful and very practical: **(It Means)**

- #1. No one can receive the Word of God and be changed while in a state of agitation.
- #2. No one can make progress with God who carries an angry spirit into worship and the Word.
- #3. No one can grow in the Lord with unresolved anger, because anger blocks the passage of truth into the heart.

(Why Not?)

Because God is more concerned about the anger in my spirit, than about the external reasons of why I am angry. (Repeat)

#4. Receive with a clean heart

“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your soul”. (v. 21) **(Which Means)**

- ◆ The phrase “superfluity of naughtiness” is a picture of a garden overgrown with weeds.

(God Says Here)

1. It's foolish to attempt to receive the Word into a heart that is unprepared.
2. It's a waste of time if I plunge into worship and the Word with clutter still remaining.
3. It's dangerous to make the mistakes James lists.

3 Mistakes We Can Make (As We Look Into His Word)

#1. We can be too quick (v. 23,24)

“For he beholdeth himself and goeth his way”.

- ◆ This is just glancing at ourselves in the mirror.
- ◆ This is religious exercise without any profit.
- ◆ This is refusing to ask God to expose our deepest needs as we look into His mirror.

Illustration

It's the difference between a snapshot of your heart and an X-ray at the hospital.

#2. We can be too forgetful (V. 24b)

“...And straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was”.

- ◆ Danger #2 is to “blow it off” when God shows us ourselves.
- ◆ Danger #2 is to smile at what we see or blame someone else (what they did to me) and justify our anger, or feelings, or resentments, or ill-will, or whatever.
- ◆ Danger #2 is to rush and be in a hurry so that we forget what God wants to bring to the surface.

#3. We can be too rebellious (v. 23 a)

“For if any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer”.

- ◆ Danger #3 is to think that hearing is the same as doing.
- ◆ God reveals that the blessing and power of the Word comes in the doing (after the reading and hearing).

Question: Why does James call the Word of God in (v. 25) the “perfect law of liberty”?

Answer: Because when we obey the Word, God uses the Word and its power to change us and set us free. (God liberates us from self and sin)

- ◆ The Word becomes the master key to unlock the prison cell and liberate us from every obstacle that hinders us in battle.

II. The Word Of God Is Our “Divine Enablement”

Question: How (or in what ways) does the Word of God enable us to stand in the day of evil?

Answer: The Sword (will be used by the Spirit) to minister God’s grace on various occasions:

(Just A Few)

- #1. God’s Word Brings Peace (Psalm 119:165)
“Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them”.
- #2. God’s Word Brings Wisdom (Psalm 19:7)
“The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple”.
- #3. God’s Word Brings Comfort (Psalm 119:50)
“This is my comfort in my affliction, for thy Word hath quickened me”.
- #4. God’s Word Brings Direction (Psalm 119:105)
“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path”.
- #5. God’s Word Brings Strength (Psalm 119:93)
“I will never forget thy precepts, for with them thou has quickened me”.
- #6. God’s Word Brings Joy (Jeremiah 15:16)
“Thy words were found and I did eat them, and thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart”.
- #7. God’s Word Brings Integrity (Psalm 119:11)
“Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee”.
- #8. God’s Word Brings Growth (I Peter 2:2)
“As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby”.
- #9. God’s Word Brings Faith (Romans 10:17)
“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God”.
- #10. God’s Word Brings Conviction (Hebrews 4:12)
“For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than a two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart”.
- #11. God’s Word Brings Fruitfulness (Psalm 1:2,3)
“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season, his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper”.
- #12. God’s Word Brings Victory (Matthew 4:4-10)
(When tempted of the devil in the wilderness, three times Jesus said “It is written” as He quoted the Word from Deuteronomy 6:13, 6:16, 8:3)

(In Other Words)

◆ God's Word is the divine pipeline from heaven to pour grace into your heart. (Repeat)

#1. The Word is our "personal development". #2. The Word is our "divine enablement".

III. The Word Of God Is Our "Corporate Encouragement" (All Read): (Mark 4:26-29)

Question: Has the devil lied to you lately?

Question: Has the evil one told you that something in your life cannot or will not change?

Question: Has satan discouraged you because of slow progress in you (or someone else)?

Question: Have voices been telling you that seed you have sown will do no good?

Question: Have you felt that your labors are in vain in Royal Rangers, Missionettes, Men's Ministries, Choir, Sunday School, Visitation, Prayer, Door Greeting, Ushering, etc?

Question: Are you worrying about things outside of your control?

(The Parable Is Clear)

(v. 28) "For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear".

Fact: This parable teaches us the principle of the word.

Fact: It teaches us how God's sword is working now.

Fact: It's an encouraging revelation to every believer.

Question: How is the "Sword of the Spirit" our corporate encouragement? (and)

Question: What's it saying to us today?

(3 "Sword Secrets" That Defeat The Evil One)

◆ Sword Secret #1: The Sword Has "Power"!

(v. 26) "...A man should cast seed into the ground".

Fact: The seed is the Word of God.

Fact: Seed planted into the heart will do something.

Fact: The seed, or the Word, or the Sword of the Spirit has within it Divine Life to accomplish deep work within us.

◆ Sword Secret #2: The Sword Has "Rest"

(v. 27) "And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring up and grow, he knoweth not how".

Fact: It's the process between sowing and reaping.

Fact: It's a word of encouragement to our heart.

#1. We can live with peace (v. 27)

"Sleep and rise night and day" (means:)

◆ We can live anxious free.

◆ We sow seed, yes, but sleep well at night.

◆ We rise in the A.M. knowing God is at work.

#2. We can live with joy (v. 27)

“And the seed should spring up and grow”.

- ◆ While we go about our daily duties, the sword is growing in every heart that hides it.
- ◆ We may be sleeping (but God’s activity continues on).

#3. We can live with rest (v.27)

Last 4 words of (v. 27) “...He knoweth not how”.

- (What Revelation Here)**
- ◆ That we can live without all the answers to our questions.
 - ◆ That God’s word is working regardless of how we feel.
 - ◆ That God’s word is accomplishing a great work, even though you cannot see it in the natural.

Question: How many of you have unsaved family, friends and relatives - and in (v. 27) you “know not how” God is going to save them?

Guess What: Seed (the sword) is working and God promises in (v. 27) It will spring up and grow!!!

◆ **Sword Secret #3: The Sword Has Victory**

(v. 28) “First the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear”.

(v. 29) “...The harvest is come”.

Fact: Satan discourages believers who forget this blade, ear and corn process.

Fact: Satan uses impatience to bring tears and discouragement to many believers. **(Remember v. 28:)**

“First The Blade” - or the green tender shoot that springs up before the stalk is formed.

“Then The Ear” - or stalk or spiral.

“After That, The Full Corn In The Ear” - or the grain swollen to its proper size.

(And I Discover)

The grace of God at work in any heart is gradual in process (so be patient with yourself and others).

(How Does The Sword Defeat The Evil One?)

#1. Because we believe in the supernatural process of the word of God when sown.

#2. Because we believe in (v. 29) “...the harvest is come” **(In Other Words)**

- ◆ While we are praying and going about our daily responsibilities, God is growing a harvest.
 - ◆ While we are laboring and patient, God is giving the increase all the while. **(In Other words)**
 - ◆ What you thought was wasted and not doing too much good, ◆ God was growing all the while.
- (How Come?)** ◆ Because it’s the Sword of the Spirit!

Conclusion

(It’s A Victorious Message With Victorious News)

- #1. The word of God brings personal development.
- #2. The word of God brings divine enablement.
- #3. The word of God brings corporate encouragement.

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor

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