

Sunday, August 4, 2013—The Battlefield of the Mind—The Sword of the Spirit, Part 2

Introduction/Review

- II Corinthians 10:3-4—this warfare is real. As this series of studies and the summer has wore on the adversary has been pushing hard to discourage me.
- Last week we started studying the 6 piece of the believer’s armor, the sword of the Spirit. There was much to say about this topic and we were not able to finish that study. The following is quick recap of what we have seen so far.
- Ephesians 6:11-13—the sword of the 1st century Roman soldier was about 24 inches in length and possessed two edges. While the sword is the only offensive weapon discussed here in Ephesians 6 it is important to realize that swordsmanship includes both offensive and defensive styles of fighting. Skilled swordsmen are trained to alter their fighting styles, techniques, and strategies given the terrain, conditions, and opponent.
- Ephesians 6:17—who’s sword is it that we wield in our hands? It’s not “our sword” it is the “sword of the Spirit.” In what sense is the word of God the sword of the Spirit? The Holy Spirit was the active agent in the inspiration of the Bible.
 - II Peter 1:21
 - II Timothy 3:16
- Hebrews 4:12—“the word of God is quick and powerful.” As a living book the word of God is capable of piercing and dividing between your soul, spirit, and body. The word of God is two-edged in the sense that when you read it, it reads you. The word of God is capable of laying bare the inner most thoughts and intents of our hearts.
- II Timothy 2:15—as with any weapon the word of God needs to be respected and handled properly. If used improperly it possesses the capacity to damage or harm to one seeking to wield it. Right division of the word is like swordsmanship safety class for the soldier. Dispensational Bible study teaches us how to approach and appropriate God’s word in God’s way.

The Sword of the Spirit Continued

- Hebrews 4:13—who or what is “in his sight” referring to in the context of the passage? It is referring back to “word of God” in verse 12. God attributes human attributes to his word. The word of God is compared to a person it has eyes and can see, according to these verses.
- God’s design in inspiration is to make the living and written word equal.
- John 1:1-3, 14—Jesus Christ is the living word.

- Psalms 138:2
- Revelation 19:11-13, 15—who is this passage describing? Jesus Christ the living word, his name is called the word of God. That is why the author of Hebrews attributes human characteristics to the word God. When you face one you are facing the other.
- Romans 9:17—who spoke to Pharaoh in the Old Testament? God through Moses. This verse says that the scriptures spoke to pharaoh. God the Holy Spirit uses the term Scripture (that which is written down) interchangeably for God.
- Galatians 3:8—can God foresee the future? What else is capable of foreseeing the future? The Scriptures. God attributes his own attributes to his word. This is why the Bible issue is so critically important. An attack on the written word is an attack on God himself.
- In his popular book *How to Enjoy the Bible* E.W. Bullinger gives of list of at least 60 things that are true of both the written and living word.
 - See print out.
- Ephesians 5:18—there is much talk in our day about what it means to be filled with the Spirit. Please note two things: 1) speaking in tongues is not mentioned anywhere in the book of Ephesians, 2) Eph. 4:30 all members of the body of Christ are already indwelt by God the Holy Spirit. Being filled with Spirit is dealing with allowing the Holy Spirit to be the operating force in your life. Notice the results of being filled with the Spirit:
 - Signing and making melody in your heart to the Lord (Eph. 5:19)
 - Heart of thanksgiving (Eph. 5:20)
 - Submission to others in the fear of God (Eph. 5:21)
 - Wives to husbands (Eph. 5:22-24)
 - Husbands to wives (Eph. 5:25-33)
 - Children to parents (Eph. 6:1-4)
 - Servants to masters (Eph. 6:5-8)
 - Masters to servants (Eph. 6:9)
- Colossians 3:16—letting the word of Christ dwell in you richly accomplishes the exact same things in your life that being filled with the Spirit does.
 - Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord (Col. 3:16)
 - Heart of thanksgiving (Col. 3:17)
 - Wives to husbands (Col. 3:18)
 - Husbands to wives (Col. 3:19)
 - Children to parents (Col. 3:20-21)
 - Servants to masters (Col. 3:22-25)
 - Masters to servants (Col. 4:1)

- To be filled with the Spirit is to let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. The same Holy Spirit that wrote the word inhabits every member of the body of Christ. When we allow the word of Christ to dwell in us richly we activate the indwelling Holy Spirit and allow him to be the active motivating force in our lives.
- Ephesians 6:17—Ironside and Sadler make much of the fact that the Greek word translated “word” in English is *rhema* which means “a saying” and not *logos* as in John 1. The significance of this observation is found when one uses the Scriptures to combat the enemy. You don’t just throw your Bible at the enemy. You combat him by quoting Scripture.
 - Matthew 4:4, 7, 10
- Psalm 119:11—the way you practically daily defeat sin in your life is through the faith application of God’s written word.
- I Thessalonians 2:13—the word of God will effectually work when we by faith apply it to the details of our lives.