

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

(Eph. 6:10-17)

Introduction:

1. I heard an excellent devotion at VCC this year by Justin Curd. He spoke on the whole armor of God, but focused specifically on the sword of the Spirit. As so often happens, his lesson produced another lesson which I will share this morning; truly iron sharpens iron (Prov. 27:17).
2. Let us consider three aspects of the sword of the Spirit: that the sword of the Spirit is the word of God; that the sword is defensive; and that the sword is offensive.

Discussion:

- I. The Sword as the Word of God.
 - A. Consider the following string of scripture: Eph. 6:17 + John 17:17 + John 12:49 (Deut. 18:18) + Mark 1:14, 15 + Rom. 1:16 + 2 Thess. 1:8 = The sword of the Spirit = the word of God = the truth = the Gospel.
 - B. Heb. 4:12 = the word of God (the two-edged sword) is what divides/determines the sheep from the goats, the saved from the lost (cp. Matt. 10:34-39; Rev. 1:16; 19:21).
 - C. How the sword is put into our hands (Eph. 6:17).
 1. John 12:48 (Deut. 18:18) = God's words given to Jesus to speak to us.
 2. John 14:26 + John 16:13 = Jesus sent the Spirit to the apostles so that they could speak to us (John 17:20 + Eph. 3:1-5 + 2 Pet. 1:3, 12-15).
- II. The Sword for Defense (1 Pet. 3:15).
 - A. A physical sword is used more for defense than offense.
 - B. Note how Jesus used the sword of the Spirit against the devil (Matt. 4:1-11).
 - C. Note how the Bereans used the sword of Spirit to confirm the truth (Acts 17:11, 5, 6).
 - D. Christians are commanded to use the sword of the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:16-23).
- III. The Sword for Offense (Matt. 28:18-20).
 - A. The sword of the Spirit when properly used destroys false teaching and apostasy (2 Cor. 10:1-6).
 - B. Note how God had commanded Jeremiah to use the sword for just that purpose (Jer. 1:9, 10).
 - C. Note how the sword of the Spirit is commanded to be used by Christians for internal discipline (Matt. 18:15-20; Deut. 19:15).
 - D. Remember, however, that our purpose of using the sword of the Spirit offensively is not destruction but salvation (2 Thess. 3:14-16).

Conclusion:

1. Here in our hand we hold the most powerful implement of warfare ever devised. It is able to defend against heavenly hosts of wickedness, and can overthrow them utterly. Yet, it is also the most precious gift of love ever given. Are you taking it and using it? Are you saved, are you saving others?
2. What will you do with the sword of the Spirit? The answer is your eternity.
3. Invitation.

MORE ON "THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT"

1. Galatians is a book about the sword of the Spirit.
 - Chapter 1:1-12, 23, 24 = source, defense, and propagation of the sword.
 - Chapter 2:2, 11-14 = source and defense of the sword.
 - Chapter 3 = defense and explanation of the sword.
 - Chapter 4 = further explanation and defense of the sword.
 - Chapter 5 = admonition to take up and live the sword.
 - Chapter 6 = charge to live/use the sword.
2. The same is true of most of the books of the New Testament (1 Cor. stands out).
3. Without the sword of the Spirit we cannot free ourselves from the slavery of the devil and sin (2 Tim. 2:24-26; Rom. 1:16; 6:17, 18).
4. Without the sword we cannot defend ourselves against the attacks of the devil/world (Matt. 4:1-10; 2 Cor. 10:1-6; John 10:3-5, 14, 27-29; Col. 2:8).
5. 2 Pet. 1 teaches us how we got the sword and what it can do for us IF we learn to handle it properly and actually do so.
6. Jude admonishes all Christians not to allow the sword of the Spirit to become dull or be taken away from them (VV 1-4ff).

**TAKE UP THE SWORD OF THE
SPIRIT!**

**TRAIN WITH THE SWORD OF
THE SPIRIT!!**

**TRIUMPH WITH THE SWORD
OF THE SPIRIT!!!**