

The Sword of the Spirit

October 1st & 2nd, 2016

Ephesians 6:17

“...and take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God...”

“The one offensive weapon in the believer’s arsenal is compared to the Roman sword, short and designed for hand-to-hand combat.”¹

Jesus is our example of how to use this sword!

- Luke 4:1-13
 - ❖ Satan tempted Jesus in three areas: The Lust of the Flesh, The Lust of the Eyes and The Pride of life
 - 1 John 2:16 “For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life – is not from the Father but is from the world.”*
 - Genesis 3:6 “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.”*
 - ❖ Jesus conquered Satan each time with the Word of God!
 - Ä Stones to Bread: The Lust of the Flesh
 - Deuteronomy 8:3 “... that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”*
 - Ä The Kingdoms of the World: The Lust of the Eyes
 - Deuteronomy 6:13 “It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by His name you shall swear.”*
 - Ä Put on the Pinnacle of the Temple: The Pride of Life
 - Deuteronomy 6:16 “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah.”*

Christian Warriors use the Sword of the Spirit to combat and conquer our adversary!

☞ The Lust of the Flesh

- ❖ The conflict is addressed
 - *Galatians 5:16-18*
- ❖ The flesh is identified
 - *Galatians 5:19-21*
 - Ä We will be tempted in these areas!
- ❖ The victory is declared!

The Sword...

Galatians 5:24 “And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Romans 6:12-14 "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace."

Galatians 5:1 "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

☞ The Lust of the Eyes

❖ The Sword is knowing and trusting God's Word.

Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

- You shall not covet your neighbor's house, wife, or possessions.

Covet: "to fix the desire upon"²

❖ The Sword is taking God's Word seriously.

Matthew 5:28 "But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

- Beware of minimizing the seriousness of pornography!

❖ The Sword is learning through Biblical examples.

Joshua 7:20-21 "And Achan answered Joshua, 'Truly I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I did: when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath.'"

- Satan wants to bring the judgement of God on us!

The Sword...

Job 31:1 "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman." NIV³

Psalms 101:3 "I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me."

☞ The Pride of Life

❖ Satan will entice us!

1 Chronicles 21:1 "Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel."

Ä Satan's plan is to bring God's judgment on us!

1 Chronicles 21:13 "Then David said to Gad, 'I am in great distress. Let me fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is very great, but do not let me fall into the hand of man.'"

❖ Pride is in everyone's heart.

Mark 7:21-22 "For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness."

❖ Pride goes before destruction.

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

The Sword...

1 Peter 5:6 “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you,”

James 4:6 “But He gives more grace. Therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’”

Philippians 2:3 “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”

1 John 2:14

*“...and the Word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.”*

Endnotes:

¹ Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

² Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

³ Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

◆ Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.