

THE WORD OF GOD – THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

Text: Eph 6:17 - *“and take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”*

There is no armour specified for the back. Only for the front of the body

Implication: Never turn your back on the enemy! Our safety lies in resisting & attacking without letting up!

Fact: Satan will keep coming at us – (1 Pet 5:8-9 *“... Prowls around...”*)

This highlights . . .

1. The SIGNIFICANCE of the Sword of the Spirit

The only attacking aspect of the Armour of God is the Sword of the Spirit = Word of God!

- Jesus used it in the ‘Wilderness Temptation’
- Paul understood it to be so because he wrote about it!
- David understood it’s value... Ps 119:11 - *Your word I have hidden in my Heart...*

Our business is to act according to the word, come what may

Note: This sword - is the Sword of the Spirit! It is not the intelligence or the capacity of man, although it is **man** who **uses** the word

The Sword (Word) is Not the printed letters, with its chapters, verses... etc. ... But the touch of the HS upon the words, making it life to the recipient!

When the HS takes the printed words, and makes them life to you... THEN the words become spiritually lethal in any given situation!

The weapons of our spiritual warfare are spiritual... they are used by the power of the Spirit!

2 Cor 3:6 - *God . . . who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

Jn 6:63 - *“...The words that I have spoken to you [they] are spirit and life.”*

When the Word becomes **Rhema** (revelation), it becomes powerful!

Only the Rhema can produce Revelation . . .

2. Moving from INFORMATION to REVELATION

Is easy to receive Information — eg. sermons, DVDs, books etc. It is quite another thing - to receive Revelation

What do we mean by 'Revelation'?

ie. Not just knowing it... or even understanding it... - but... walking in its truth... living it out!
(Revelation)

The stages of Progression involved from knowing it to living it:

1. Information → 2. Illumination → 3. Revelation

#1. **Information!** (Is not Revelation!) — When we realise what has come to us, is Interesting... stimulating... a new field

But how does this translate into the next stage toward Revelation?

Paul helps us in his exhortation to Timothy—

2 Tim 2:15 – *Study to show yourself approved unto God . . . rightly dividing the word of truth.*

I need to study it — Systematically. I gather more information... look at related Scriptures... pray into it. While I'm doing this, I am gaining more information!

Information makes possible the next step —

#2. As I go through the above process the light goes on — **Illumination!**

I now see it in a new light! My understanding of it has increased. But this is still not full Revelation!

#3. I now need to **walk** in that truth and **live** in that truth! Once we do, we move into **Revelation!**

I now not only see it... I now understand it... and I therefore I can live it!

This is when the Word starts working for you!

This is when you start living in a higher realm.

We then are no longer people of - opinions... philosophies - But... people of the Word!

3. The GREATNESS of God's Word

Psa 119:89 - *Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens*

Psa 138:2 - *...for you have exalted above all things your name and your word*

Lk 21:33 - *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away*

Cf. 2 Pe 3:10

God keeps His Word, even though everything else will pass away. He saves His truth!

God will back up His Word! You don't have to!

Jer 1:12 - "... for I am watching over my word to perform it."

Isa 55:10-11 - "*For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; [Remember – Rhema - "...that which is or has been uttered by the LIVING voice"] it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

God sends rain and snow to accomplish the effect He wants.

He sends His Word for us to stand / rely on it. If we do it will accomplish the effect He wants!

4. God's Word as a SEED!

Seeds and Seedlings in Greenhouses are in a relatively safe environment
It is once Seedlings are planted out that they face challenges of all sorts

This is what happens with that 'word' which, we believe God has spoken to us
That 'word' comes from God, and it is alive... living – and falls on soil of our hearts. Once that 'word' has lodged in our hearts - it does NOT automatically grow and flourish into fulfillment – while we sit and do nothing!

Jesus describes the progress of the seed - using a natural example . . .

Mr 4:28 – "... *first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear*"

One almighty battle ensues to obliterate that 'word/seed' and stop it from ever seeing the light of day

cf. Parable of Sower (Mt 13; Mk 4; Lk 8) . . .

Only 25% (¼) of all the seed sown reaches inherent potential!

The seed has to be protected and nurtured!

Example of the resistance to a 'seed' being successful in its God-given purpose

Luke 3:21-22 cf 4:1-3

#3:21-22 - *Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, [the voice of God his Father] "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*

That was the 'word' the Father spoke over His Son... the seed sown into Jesus' life

Now watch the attempt to stifle that 'word' –

#4:1-3 - *And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness 2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, "IF you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."*

- The last thing Jesus hears from his Father – *"YOU ARE my beloved son in whom I am well pleased"*
- The first thing he hears from the devil – *"IF YOU ARE the son of God, command these stones to be turned to bread"*

This is the way the enemy works –

Mk 4:15 - ... *Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.*

We have to keep watering the seed of God's Word to our hearts!

It also means . . .

5. We Have To PROTECT The 'Word' Over Our Life.

The word over your life will be challenged!

You have to be able to hold on to that 'word', even when it is not appearing to work!

That's where the battle lies!

No matter what, you have to know the 'word' spoken over your life – and then you must stand on it

The trial / testing - is the 'pregnancy'... The birth is on the way!

How we deal with the Word in our lives – determines what kind of success we reap in life

6. There is POWER IN SPEAKING THE WORD OF GOD!

One way to stand on God's Word, is to SPEAK it with **conviction**.

How blessed we will be if we will only **speak first** God's Word over our lives... our circumstances

That which comes out of our mouths is vitally important.

Deut 30:12 - *"[My word] is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' 14 But the word is very near you. It is in your **mouth** and in your **heart**, so that you can DO it."*

Paul quotes this passage in Rom 10:8 - *"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)*

I get frustrated with myself when I speak negative things out of - frustration... disappointment... anger, etc.

I will have just spoken 'death' into that situation, instead of 'life'!

Prov 18:21 - *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it WILL eat its fruits.*

A few more Scriptures to consider . . .

Prov 18:4A - *The words of a man's mouth are deep waters...*

cf. Ecc 7:24 - *That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out?*

We soon find out when we listen to what a person speaks –

Mt 12:34 - *...out of the abundance of his heart, his mouth speaks*

Mt 12:36-37 - *I tell you, on the day of judgment people WILL GIVE ACCOUNT for every careless word they speak, 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."*

NB - Words are fruit-bearing!

Speaking God's Word – produces the opposite result described in . . .

Mt 15:11- *"...it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person."*

In talking about obeying His Word / Commandments - God says in...

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Our success lies in walking in revelation - received from the Word

Simply being a Christian doesn't guarantee our success — BUT — being a Christian and living out of Revelation will!