

Series: The Wealth of Christ & The Walk of the Christian

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

EPHESIANS 6:17 & OTHERS

Text: Ephesians 6:17

Ephesians 6:17

¹⁷ *And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:***

Introduction:

Up to this point the pieces of armor have been defensive; however this piece “the sword of the spirit” is both defensive and offensive.

The word of God which is compared to a sword serves both for attack and to protect the Christian from the thrusts of the enemy. It is a double or two edged sword.

Christ used it in His temptation.

It is the sword of the Spirit, because the Spirit of God gave it and inspired it.

The Spirit's aid is needed for its interpretation.

That is why it is vital that we use the Word of God as it is intended.

Note:

1. THE WORD OF GOD GUARDS US (EPH. 6:17)

Ephesians 6:17

¹⁷ *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

It Guards Us Against the Wiles of the Devil

The word wiles again has the idea of being deceived.

It is the same word used in Ephesians 4:14

Ephesians 4:14

¹⁴ *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

It is the same idea found in these verses:

Mark 13:22

²² *For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.*

2 Corinthians 2:11

¹¹ *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

2 Corinthians 4:4

⁴ *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

2 Corinthians 11:3

³ *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

¹³ *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.* ¹⁴ *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.* ¹⁵ *Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

2 Thessalonians 2:9-11

⁹ *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,* ¹⁰ *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.* ¹¹ *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should*

believe a lie:

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

2 Peter 2:1-3

¹ *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.* ² *And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.* ³ *And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*

Note how the Word of God Guards Us:

A. By Calming Our Fears (Psalms 119:109-110)

Psalm 119:109-110

¹⁰⁹ ***My soul is continually in my hand:*** *yet do I not forget thy law.* ¹¹⁰ *The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy precepts.*

This speaks of being in a fearful condition.

In times of peril, god's Word is there to comfort and encourage us.

Not only does the Word of God guard by "calming our fears" but also:

B. By Hindering Our Foes (vs. 110)

Psalm 119:110

¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy precepts.

We must remember that it is often our distress that strengthens us in the faith.

Note not only does the "Word of God Guard Us" but also:

2. THE WORD OF GOD GUIDES US (PSALMS 119:105-106)

Psalm 119:105-106

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. ¹⁰⁶ I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments.

It guides us:

A. In Our Walk (vs. 105-106)

- This pictures a lantern on a pole; it provides enough light for each step taken.
- It provides enough light to show the path in front but not a search light to reveal the end.
- Only the light of the Word of God can illuminate the path and keep us from falling.
- We find the way we are to go through the Word of God.

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

- The issue is not its guidance but rather performance of it guidance. (see vs. 106)

It also guides us:

B. In Our Weakness (vs. 107)

Psalm 119:107

¹⁰⁷ I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word.

- Christians are not immune to afflictions in this life.

- Christians are not isolated from temptation.

Psalm 119:11

¹¹ *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

It also guides us:

C. In Our Worship (vs. 108)

Psalm 119:108

¹⁰⁸ *Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me thy judgments.*

Our worship is offered unto God and we should pray that it would be acceptable unto God.

Note how the Psalmist states it: “the freewill offerings of my mouth.”

Our praise should always come freely from our heart.

Note not only does the “Word of God Guard Us and Guide Us” but also:

3. GOD’S WORD GLADDENS US (VS. 111-112)

Psalm 119:111-112

¹¹¹ *Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for **they are the rejoicing of my heart.*** ¹¹² *I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, even unto the end.*

That is why we should hide God's Word in our heart.

So that our hearts may rejoice, and that we may be faithful unto the end.

Close:

As we have seen and Paul encouraged us:

Ephesians 6:17

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Take the sword of the spirit which is the Word of God.

Are we taking it with us? It guards, guides, and gladdens us.