

128 - The Sword of the Spirit - Part 2 - Ephesians 6:17 - 2017-02-12

Call to Worship: Psalm 103:20-22

Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:110-115

Sermon: "The Sword of the Spirit - Part 2" Ephesians 6:17b

Benediction: Psalm 119:116-117

## INTRODUCTION

As we learned last week, "the word of God" is every word that comes from the mouth of God, which words He made known to us through His servants, through whom He spoke, especially His own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and which words are now written down for us as the bible

The "word of God" is all of God's commands, such as

- the 10 Commandments, and our Lord Jesus' exposition of them in the Sermon on the Mount

- the 2 great commandments

- the golden rule

- the great commission

- the ethical instruction in the letters

The "word of God" is the Gospel, the good news of salvation for sinners in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection

- A. forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus Christ

Today we go on to see what it is to wield the Word of God, the Scriptures, the Bible, as the Sword of the Spirit.

## TEXT

Ephesians 6:17 And take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

## BODY

- I. The Essential Difference Between the Sword and the Rest of the Armor
  - A. All will keep the attack of the enemy from harming the soldier; the other pieces by one method; the sword not by one, but by two
    1. similarly to the other parts: the soldier puts it between the body and the weapons of an attacking enemy, so the attack does no harm because it does not land blows on the body
    2. differently from the other parts: with it the soldier harms the enemy, so the attack does no harm because it does not continue
  - B. This difference is so apparent that in our way of speaking, we no longer talk about the sword as part of the armor, but as a different thing altogether, a “weapon”
  - C. illus. Think of the modern police officer.
    1. He has soft body armor, which he wears under his uniform shirt. It will keep him from suffering harm by stopping a knife thrust or pistol bullet from someone attacking him.
    2. He has a pistol. It will keep him from suffering harm by wounding his attacker, so that the attack stops.
  - D. That is true of the sword, but is it true of the Word of God? Yes.
    1. Matthew 4:8-11 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. (9) And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." (10) Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.' " (11) Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.
      - a) see that with the sword of the Spirit the Lord Jesus is able to command the devil to go away, and he indeed did then go away
    2. James 4:6-7 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." (7) Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- II. What Is Actually Cut By the Sword of the Spirit
  - A. It is fun to imagine ourselves wielding the sword of the Spirit to wound demons or the devil
    1. but that is just imagination
    2. that is taking the metaphor here and running away with it
    3. it makes for good allegory, but not for careful consideration of the truth
  - B. What is really destroyed by the Word of God when wielded as a sword?
    1. The sword does not destroy demons or the devil, but instead destroys lies, which are the wiles or schemes of the devil. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. (4) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, (5) casting down arguments [KJV: imaginations] and

every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

2. It destroys lies by showing them to be lies
3. This either affirms your right judgment or changes your wrong judgment
  - a) if you already judge this lie to be false, your judgment is affirmed
  - b) if you have been judging this lie to be true, your judgment is changed

### III. Where the Sword Is Wielded

- A. It is wielded in the conscience, which I began to explain a moment ago, since I was talking about making judgments as to whether something is truth or a lie. That is a function of your conscience; your faculty for judging something to be right or wrong, true or false, good or evil, of God or of the devil.
- B. You have in your mind thoughts that are untrue. Everything untrue has its origin in the lies of the devil. You have in your mind such thoughts as
  1. "God doesn't really choose certain people for salvation." or
  2. "I don't really need to obey my parents."
- C. The sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, when wielded, shows those thoughts to be lies.
- D. This has the effect of tearing down those lies, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

### IV. How This Works to Keep the Believer from Sin

- A. You have desires, urges in your flesh. How you act on those desires is determined by what you think. The wiles or schemes of the devil are attempts to get you thinking that you should satisfy those desires
  1. by believing things that are not true, and
  2. doing things that are not right
- B. When the Word of God is wielded like a sword, it deprives the desires of the flesh from the untrue thoughts necessary for carrying out what you are being tempted to do.
  1. illus. If you have the desire to believe that Jesus died merely to make possible the salvation of every person, and has left it up to each to decide for himself, your flesh needs the thought that that is true in order for the temptation to sin to be successful. If that thought is exposed by the Word of God as untrue, the desire in your flesh is deprived of its power. It is, in effect, mortified, put to death, by the sword of the Spirit.
  2. illus. If you have the desire to look lustfully at a woman, your flesh needs the thought that looking lustfully at a woman is not wrong in order for that temptation to sin to be successful. If that thought is exposed by the Word of God as untrue, the desire in your flesh is deprived of its power. It is, in effect, mortified, put to death, by the sword of the Spirit.

### V. How This Is Modeled for Us in the Bible

- A. Our Blessed Lord Jesus in the wilderness
  1. first

- a) temptatation Mat 4:3
    - b) answer Mat 4:4
  - 2. second
    - a) temptation Mat 4:5-6
    - b) answer Mat 4:7
  - 3. third
    - a) temptation Mat 4:8-9
    - b) temptation Mat 4:9-10
  - 4. Note that in every case He simply quoted a command of God from the law.
- B. Peter
  - 1. 1 Peter 1:13-16
    - a) Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (14) as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; (15) but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (16) because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."
    - b) Peter is quoting Leviticus 19:2 "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.
  - 2. 1 Peter 4:8
    - a) And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "LOVE WILL COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS."
    - b) Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.
- C. Paul
  - 1. Eph 4:25
    - a) Therefore, putting away lying, "LET EACH ONE OF YOU SPEAK TRUTH WITH HIS NEIGHBOR," for we are members of one another.
    - b) Zechariah 8:16 These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace;
  - 2. Eph 6:1-3
    - a) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first commandment with promise: (3) "THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH."
    - b) Deuteronomy 5:16 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

## VI. APPLICATION

- A. Take the Word of God, not the word of man, as your sword

- B. You must know what it says
  - 1. learn for yourself
  - 2. teach your children
- C. You must rightly understand what it means
  - 1. this is important
  - 2. yet not to be overdone; the commands of the Lord are not complicated
- D. The opportunities to be taught the Word of God are like weapons training for a soldier
  - 1. oh, it's not that important

## CONCLUSION

Albert Barnes: A single text of Scripture is better to meet a temptation, than all the philosophy which the world contains. The tempter can reason, and reason plausibly too. But he cannot resist a direct and positive command of the Almighty.

Oh, dear church! I see all of us (including myself definitely) taking blow after blow from the enemy, from lack of using this sword. Oh, use it in your conscience! Make the blows to cease by defeating the schemes of the devil with the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.



G4487 *rhema* an utterance

G2316 *theos* God

- I. Why the Word of God Is Called the Sword of the Spirit
  - A. Difference between sword and other parts of the armor: it not only blocks blows from the enemy, but it lands blows on the enemy, causing him to cease from attacking
  - B. The Word of God, when wielded, has that two-fold function
    1. resists temptations
    2. damages whatever the means of temptation was, so that the temptation ceases
  - C. Who or what might be the means of temptation?
    1. sin in your own flesh: Colossians 3:1-9 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,
    2. Romans 8:13
    - 3.
    - 4.

**James 4:7b Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

Trapp:

i.e. Worldly and fleshly lusts stirred up by the devil. Lust resisted is sin materially, not formally; for the guilt is done away, in that we do not allow it, but abhor it, as some are of the opinion.

## Why the word of God is called the sword of the Spirit

Trapp on Heb 4:12:

there is none so piercing for cutting the heart, or killing sin in it. So is it used, Eph\_6:17; compare Act\_2:37 7:54.

JRY:

against the wiles of the devil

the power of the Holy Spirit comes to bear on the enemy by this means

Henry: with this we assault the assailants

note how different the battles with the sword

Satan versus Adam and Eve

Satan versus Jesus

it destroys the devil's allies or minions

Henry:

Scripture-arguments are the most powerful arguments to repel temptation with.

arguments: 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. (4) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, (5) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, (6) and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

the flesh: Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Gill:

he had many enemies to engage with, as Satan, and his principalities and powers; sin, and the lusts of the flesh; the world, and the men of it, and a great fight of afflictions to endure with them; as also false teachers, with whom particularly he was to fight the good fight of faith, that so the truth of the Gospel, which they resisted, might continue with the saints.

Gill:

common to all believers; who being enlisted as volunteers under Christ, the Captain of their salvation, and having on the whole armour of God, fight against the world, the flesh, and the devil

Clarke:

to cut in pieces the snares of the adversary

Poole:

cuts the sinews of the strongest temptations

Henry:



This, being hid in the heart, will preserve from sin (Psa\_119:11), and will mortify and kill those lusts and corruptions that are latent there.

Hodge:

In opposition to all error, to all false philosophy, to all false principles of morals, to all the sophistries of vice, to all the suggestions of the devil, the sole, simple, and sufficient answer is the word of God. . . It dissipates his doubts; it drives away his fears; it delivers him from the power of Satan

Most commentators:

the sword given by the Spirit

VWS:

The word of God serves both for attack and to parry the thrusts of the enemy.

Gurnall:

But the sword both defends him, and wounds his enemy.

here a double inquiry would be made.

1. First, why the word of God is compared to a sword.
  - a. the sword being both of general and constant use among soldiers, and also that weapon with which they not only defend themselves, but do the greatest execution upon their enemies, most fitly sets forth the necessity and excellent use of the word of God, by which the Christian both defends himself, and offends, yea, cuts down before him all his enemies.
2. Secondly, why this sword is attributed to the Spirit
  - a. He is the author of it
  - b. The Spirit is the only true interpreter of the word
  - c. It is only the Spirit of God can give the word its efficacy and power in the soul. It is his office

The words thus opened present this doctrine: That the written word, or the Scripture, is the sword by which the Spirit of God enables the saints to overcome all their enemies. The Spirit will do nothing for them without the word, and they can do nothing to purpose without him. The word is the sword, and Spirit of Christ the arm which wields it in and for the saints. All the great conquests which Christ and his saints achieve in the world, are got with this sword; when Christ comes forth against his enemies this sword is girded on his thigh (Psalm xlv.3) and his victory over them ascribed to it (Psalm xlv.4). We find (Rev i.16) Christ holding seven stars in his right hand, intimating the great care he hath over his people, particularly the ministers, who are more shot at than any other; and how doth he protect them but by his sharpened two-edged sword coming out of his mouth? . . . the word of God stands between the saints and all danger.

Four enemies

1. persecutor
2. seducer and heretic
3. corruptions and lusts within
4. afflictions

## **How to take the sword of the Spirit, to use it against the enemy**

Barnes:

The Saviour Mat\_4:4, Mat\_4:7, Mat\_4:10, met the tempter with the Word of God, and he was foiled. So we shall be safe if we adhere to the simple declarations of the Bible, and oppose a temptation by a positive command of God. But, the moment we leave that, and begin to parley with sin, that moment we are gone. It is as if a man should throw away his sword, and use his naked hands only in meeting an adversary.

Hoehner:

in the present context it is not used to make advances but rather to enable the believer to stand firmly in the midst of satanic warfare. The devil and his forces must not be allowed to gain new territory in Christ's kingdom or to rob believers of their spiritual blessings in Christ.

Hodge:

individual experience . . . also the experience of the church collective

Barnes:

the tempter . . . cannot resist a direct and positive command of the Almighty

JRY:

to take it you must have it  
see example of Paul

see example of Peter  
see supreme example of Jesus in the wilderness  
take my example

Gurnall:

knowledge of the word of God, and some skill to use this weapon

## **sword of the Spirit**

Hoehner:

a genitive of origin or source (“sword given by the Spirit”)

it has the idea of offensive empowerment by the Holy Spirit necessary in a spiritual battle

in the present context it is not used to make advances but rather to enable the believer to stand firmly in the midst of satanic warfare. The devil and his forces must not be allowed to gain new territory in Christ’s kingdom or to rob believers of their spiritual blessings in Christ.

Ellicott:

given by the Holy Spirit

Hodge:

means the sword which the Spirit gives

Our Lord promised to give to his disciples a word and wisdom which all their adversaries should not be able to gainsay or resist. In opposition to all error, to all false philosophy, to all false principles of morals, to all the sophistries of vice, to all the suggestions of the devil, the sole, simple, and sufficient answer is the word of God. This puts to flight all the powers of darkness. The Christian finds this to be true in his individual experience. It dissipates his doubts; it drives away his fears; it delivers him from the power of Satan. It is also the experience of the church collective. All her triumphs over sin and error have been effected by the word of God. So long as she uses this and relies on it alone, she goes on conquering; but when anything else, be it reason, science, tradition, or the commandments of men, is allowed to take its place or to share its office, then the church, or the Christian, is at the mercy of the adversary.

Clarke:

An ability to quote this on proper occasions, and especially in times of temptation and trial, has a wonderful tendency to cut in pieces the snares of the adversary.

Barnes:

A single text of Scripture is better to meet a temptation, than all the philosophy which the world contains. The tempter can reason, and reason plausibly too. But he cannot resist a direct and positive command of the Almighty.

### **word G4487 *rhema* of God G2316 *theos***

Gurnall:

now all those ways whereby God directly made known his mind to this people, are resolved into this one of the Scriptures, which we are to receive as the undoubted word of God, containing in a perfect rule of faith and life, and to expect no other revelation of his mind to us.

Hodge:

It is that which God has spoken, his word, the bible.

Vaughan:

more literally, "God's utterance"

Hoehner:

It may be that Paul is again referring to the imagery of the LXX, for Isa 11:4 states that the Spirit of the Lord will rest on the Messiah who will smite the earth with the word [*logos*] of his mouth and with the breath of his lips he shall destroy the wicked.

Briefly, then, the sword of the Spirit is the offensive weapon, the spoken word of God to be used against the spiritual wickedness of the devil.

This is not preaching the gospel but speaking God's word against his foes.

Ellicott:

St. Peter (1 Peter 1:25) defines it exactly: "The word of the Lord endureth for ever; and this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

Eadie:

By "the word of God" we understand the gospel, or revealed will of God-and to us it is in effect Holy Scripture.

By the special organic influence of the Spirit, plenary inspiration was enjoyed, and God's ideas became, in the lips and from the pens of apostles and prophets, God's words.

Luke 3:2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the **word of God** came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

Luke 4:4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY **WORD OF GOD.**' "

John 3:34 For He whom God has sent speaks the **words of God**, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the **word of God**.

Hebrews 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, (5) and have tasted the good **word of God** and the powers of the age to come, (6) if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the **word of God**, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Revelation 17:17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the **words of God** are fulfilled.

### **word G4487 *rhema* of the Lord G2962 *kurios***

Acts 11:15-16 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. (16) Then I remembered the **word of the Lord**, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

1 Peter 1:22-25 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, (23) having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the **word [G3056 *logos*] of God [G2316 *theos*]** which lives and abides forever, (24) because "ALL FLESH IS AS GRASS,

AND ALL THE GLORY OF MAN AS THE FLOWER OF THE GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND ITS FLOWER FALLS AWAY, (25) BUT THE **WORD** [G4487 *rhema*] OF THE LORD [G2962 *kurios*] ENDURES FOREVER." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

**word G3056 *logos* of God G2316 *theos***

Hebrews 4:11-13 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. (12) For the **word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (13) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Romans 9:4-7 who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; (5) of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen. (6) But it is not that **the word of God** has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, (7) nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "IN ISAAC YOUR SEED SHALL BE CALLED."

1 Corinthians 14:36 Or did the **word of God** come originally from you? Or was it you only that it reached?

2 Corinthians 2:17 For we are not, as so many, peddling the **word of God**; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:2-5 But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the **word of God** deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. (3) But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, (4) whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (5) For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

**word G4487 *rhema***

Ephesians 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the **word**,

Acts 26:25 But he said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the **words** of truth and reason.

2 Peter 3:1-2 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), (2) that you may be mindful of the **words** which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

Jude 1:17 But you, beloved, remember the **words** which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Romans 10:8-18 But what does it say? "**THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART**" (that is, the **word** of faith which we preach): (9) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (11) For the Scripture says, "**WHOEVER BELIEVES ON HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.**" (12) For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. (13) For "**WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.**" (14) How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (15) And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "**HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!**" (16) But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "**LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?**" (17) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the **word of God**. (18) But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "**THEIR SOUND HAS GONE OUT TO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD.**"

Hebrews 1:1-3 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (2) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; (3) who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the **word** of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

### **The Ultimate Example of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

JRY:

It was enough for Jesus to know that God had commanded.

### **Examples in Paul**

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, putting away lying, "**LET EACH ONE OF YOU SPEAK TRUTH WITH HIS NEIGHBOR,**" for we are members of one another.

Zechariah 8:16 These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace;

Ephesians 4:26 "BE ANGRY, AND DO NOT SIN": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,  
Psalms 4:4 Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah

Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first commandment with promise: (3) "THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH."

Deuteronomy 5:16 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. (18) For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE AN OX WHILE IT TREADS OUT THE GRAIN," and, "THE LABORER IS WORTHY OF HIS WAGES."

Deuteronomy 25:4 "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.

Luke 10:7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house.

Romans 12:17-21 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. (18) If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. (19) Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. (20) Therefore "IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM; IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD." (21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Deuteronomy 32:35 Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in due time; For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.'

Proverbs 25:21-22 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; (22) For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, And the LORD will reward you.

Romans 13:8-10 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. (9) For the commandments, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," "YOU SHALL NOT MURDER," "YOU SHALL NOT STEAL," "YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS," "YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." (10) Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Romans 14:10-13 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. (11) For it is written: "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD." (12) So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. (13)



Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

Isaiah 45:22-24 "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. (23) I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath. (24) He shall say, 'Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength. To Him men shall come, And all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him.

### **Examples in Peter**

1 Peter 1:13-16 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (14) as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; (15) but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (16) because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

Leviticus 19:2 "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

1 Peter 2:18-23 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. (19) For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. (20) For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. (21) For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: (22) "WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH"; (23) who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

Isaiah 53:9 And they made His grave with the wicked-- But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.

1 Peter 3:8-12 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; (9) not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. (10) For "HE WHO WOULD LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, LET HIM REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL, AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. (11) LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. (12) FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE ON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN TO THEIR PRAYERS; BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

Psalms 34:12-16 Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? (13) Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. (14) Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. (15) The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His

ears are open to their cry. (16) The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

1 Peter 3:14-16 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "AND DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THEIR THREATS, NOR BE TROUBLED." (15) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; (16) having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

Isaiah 8:12-13 "Do not say, 'A conspiracy,' Concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, Nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. (13) The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow; Let Him be your fear, And let Him be your dread.

1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "LOVE WILL COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS."

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.

1 Peter 5:5-6 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. ~~Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and~~ be clothed with humility, for "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." (6) Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

Proverbs 3:34 Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble.

### **the word of God as a sword**

Hebrews 4:11-13 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. (12) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (13) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Revelation 1:16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

Revelation 2:12-16 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says **He who has the sharp two-edged sword:** (13) "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. (14) But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. (15) Thus you also have those who hold

the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. (16) Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Revelation 19:11-21 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. (12) His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. (13) He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. (14) And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. (15) Now **out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations.** And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. (16) And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (17) Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, (18) that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." (19) And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. (20) Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. (21) And **the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him** who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

John 17:8-17 For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. (9) "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. (10) And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. (11) Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. (12) While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. (13) But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. (14) I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (15) I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. (16) They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (17) Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

5. your own body: 1 Corinthians 9:26-27 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. (27) But I

discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

6. deceptive arguments or thoughts: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. (4) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, (5) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
7. persecutions by your adversaries: Luke 21:12-15 But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. (13) But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. (14) Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; (15) for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.