

from our spirit. It will help show us the true thoughts and intentions of our hearts.

The soul is a more deceptive enemy in that it is often and easily confused with our spirit. Our soul refers to our intellect and emotions, and it can mislead us. Our souls are in the process of sanctification, which is the ongoing out-working of our spiritual birth.

The Word of God is a powerful weapon that can reveal and distinguish our “soulish” thoughts from the leading of our spirit by God's Holy Spirit. Our soulish ideas are quite often “good ideas”... they would be good things to do.

The “Good” is the enemy of God's BEST!

If we are involved in “good” things, “good” works, we will likely settle for less than what God desires from us. We will sacrifice the BEST He has for us, for the good that our soul desires to accomplish.

The differences are often subtle.

Conclusions

Training in the proper use of the Sword of the Spirit is absolutely CRITICAL to spiritual victory!

We need to be skilled with God's Word. Practicing with the Bible will lead to victorious living. Word of God training includes:

- * Reading the Bible
- * Praying according to the Bible
- * Studying the Bible
- * Meditating upon the Bible
- * Memorizing the Bible
- * Fellowshiping over the Bible
- * Preaching and teaching the Bible
- * Living according to the Bible
- * etc.

This will give us success against the temptations of the devil, as well as conquest over our own “good ideas”!

Time for Sword practice!

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The Armor of God

Part 8

The Sword of the Spirit



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“...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17)

Other Bible References

“And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;” (Isaiah 49:2)

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword,

THE ARMOR OF GOD - THE SWORD OF SPIRIT

piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

The Armor of the Roman Soldier

Like the shield, there were different types of swords used by the Roman soldier. However, the favored sword was the double-edged sword mentioned in Hebrews 4:12 (see above). Therefore, we will focus on this one.

The two-edged sword was a formidable weapon in the Roman soldier's arsenal. As associated with the armor, it is the only weapon that could be offensive. All of the other pieces of armor were primarily defensive or pragmatic in nature.

This sword could inflict a great deal of damage and was very flexible in application. When using a double-edged sword, one does not need to be sure that the “cutting” edge is facing the right direction... both edges are “cutting” edges. This was particularly handy with multiple opponents or if

multiple slashing motions were necessary. Most of the time these swords were used in short, fast, lunging motions.

Spiritual Applications

The Word of God, the Bible, is the Sword of the Spirit. This is our offensive weapon. It is a weapon of destruction and defense against our enemies.

Perhaps the finest example of effectively wielding the Sword of the Spirit, is that of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Matthew chapter 4, we see Jesus being tempted by the devil. In three recorded interactions between Jesus and the devil, we see Jesus using the Word of God to be victorious over the devil's schemes.

*“But he answered and said, **IT IS WRITTEN**, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)*

*“Jesus said unto him, **IT IS WRITTEN** again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” (Matthew 4:7)*

*“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for **IT IS WRITTEN**, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” (Matthew 4:10)*

As we can see by Jesus' example, we must train and become proficient in the Word of God in order to defend ourselves against the temptations of the devil. We can also see how efficient the Sword of the Spirit is in its task.

“Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.” (Matthew 4:11)

Jesus quotes the Bible three times to the devil... and the devil leaves Him! The Bible is the most powerful offensive weapon that leads to victory over temptation and evil.

Another spiritual application of the Sword of the Spirit can be seen in Hebrews 4:12 (quoted above). Other than the devil, we have a more deceptive enemy... our soul! In this verse from Hebrews, the Bible tells us that the Word of God can sever our soul