

to resist temptation? (v.4) “It is written” [Word]; (v.7) “It is written” [Word]; (v.10) “It is written” [Word]. By what are we to live? (v.4) “by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Compare Psalms 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

Action: The Word of God is alive and powerful. It is certainly not a dead letter to the non-Christian or to the Christian. Note but a few passages. “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb. 4:12). “All scripture [Word] is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine [Word], for reproof [Word], for correction [Word], for instruction [Word] in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” [all by the Word] (2 Tim. 3:16,17). “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge [Word] of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises [Word]: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption [by the Word] that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:3,4).

Conclusion: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments [Word]: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. ¹⁴For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil (Eccl. 12:13,14). By what shall we be judged? “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books [Word] were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books [Word], according to their works” (Rev. 20:12). “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).

A few of many other verses that should be studied in this matter include: 2 Timothy 2:15; Romans 10:17; 2 Peter 3:18; James 1:21-25; 1 Timothy 4:16. ♥

You may send for this complete series of articles or read them on our website at www.mission-usa.org under “Sound Words.”



“Hold fast the form of sound words”

SW

(II Tim. 1:13 cp. Tit. 1:9; Jude 3)

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Church of Christ (Rom. 16:16) Mission USA

Perry Sexton 1763 Highway 166 N. Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474

Email: jpsexton@peoplepc.com

Website: www.mission-usa.org

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The Sword Of The Spirit

(Part 13, Holy Spirit series)

by Perry Sexton

It seems many who believe in the literal personal indwelling (PI) of the Holy Spirit in the very body of the Christian forget about the all sufficiency of the Word of God. Some go so far as to attack and minimize the all sufficiency of the Word of God.

We know the great work of the Holy Spirit was to deliver God’s Word to mankind. Let us hear the Spirit concerning His work: “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:” (Eph. 6:17). What is the sword of the Spirit? The Word of God! The Holy Spirit works through the Word and we are to take this Word delivered by the Spirit and use in our daily lives both as a defensive and offensive weapon. Much could be said on this and all of the following points, but you can add more to each point of this brief study.

I insert [Word] where appropriate (if it is not already there) showing that it is referring to the Word of God or is accomplished by the Word, etc.

Creation: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” [by the Word] (Gen. 1:1). “God said” [Word] is found 8 times in Genesis 1 concerning creation and “it was so” [by the Word].

Preservation: “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, ...” (Heb. 1:3). Since God created all things by His Word and all things are sustained by His Word, is it any wonder that His Word is able to save our souls?

Salvation: “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls (James 1:21). And to save our souls, we must do what? “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (James 1:22). “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will [Word] of my Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21). “... no condemnation ... in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit [Word]” (Rom. 8:1, see part 9 on Romans 8). “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;” (Heb. 5:9). We obey His Word (John 14:15). Why? Because it is God’s power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 Peter 1:23 cp. John 3:3-5). So we are saved by the Word of God, but what keeps us saved?

Preservation: “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel [Word] which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which [Word] also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached [Word] unto you, unless ye have believed in vain” (1 Cor. 15:1,2). “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine [Word]; continue in them [Word]: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear [Word] thee” (1 Tim. 4:16). Note, are there any mention of nudges or feelings from the Holy Spirit in which we are to heed??? “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine [Word] of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine [Word] of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son” (2 John 1:9). “But if we walk in the light [Word], as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). “...the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe [Word]” (1 Thess. 2:13). “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith [Word]; that ye” (Eph. 3:17 cp. Rom. 10:17). “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing ...” (Col. 3:16). “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will [Word] of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit [by the Word]; Speaking ...” (Eph. 5:17-19). Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:18,19 are parallel verses. Study

them carefully. See part 9 (9-2011) of Holy Spirit series concerning Romans 8, etc. [On my website or send for it].

Protection: The Christian armament is certainly sufficient. Let us note **all** of what it consists. “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth [Word, John 17:17], and having on the breastplate of righteousness [Word]; ¹⁵And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel [Word] of peace; ¹⁶Above all, taking the shield of faith [Word], wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation [Word], and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:” (Eph. 6:11-17). What is the sword of the Spirit? The Word of God. Remember this always! The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God.

Fruition: Living the Christian life includes both fruit bearing and resisting temptation.

Fruit bearing: “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²Those by the way side are they that hear [Word]; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. ¹³They on the rock are they, which, when they hear [Word], receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard [Word], go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. ¹⁵But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it [Word], and bring forth fruit with patience” (Luke 8:11-15). The devil took what away? The Word. Why? Because it is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16.) Was there anything else to be taken away? **No.** Note, there is no mention that the devil took away the Holy Spirit. What bore fruit? “The seed,” which is the Word of God. This is how the Holy Spirit bears fruit in us (cp. Gal. 5:22-25).

Resisting temptation is a must in order to bring the Christian life to a successful conclusion (read Matt. 4:1-11). What did Jesus use