



Functions of the Word of God

December 2, 2020

To Be A Sword Slaying God's Enemy

Ephesians 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Matthew 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You! **23** But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.

Revelation 1:16 And He had in His right hand seven stars; and out of His mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword; and His face shone as the sun shines in its power..

The Spirit and the Word

We must see that the word of God is the Spirit of God. You cannot separate the word of God from the Spirit of God. When I speak forth God's word, what goes out from me is the word, but it is the Spirit who enters into you. When the word is spoken again by you, it is the word, but when it enters into others, it is the Spirit again. The word is the Spirit, and the Spirit

is the word. The two are one. What I speak here is the word, but what enters into you is the Spirit. The Spirit is the word, and the word is the Spirit. Thus, this word is not doctrine or knowledge. The Lord told us that His words are spirit. God's Spirit comes forth, and when we touch Him, He is the word. The Spirit is God's word.

In Ephesians 6 God's word is not for supplying but for killing, because it is the

sword. What then does it kill? It kills anything that is contrary to God's vision. We are in a warfare. Anything that is contrary to the vision of God, the fullness of Christ, and the great power within us has to be slain. Do not tolerate it but slay it.

Slaying The Adversary by Pray-reading

Because the self is the greatest enemy, we need to experience the killing power of God's word. As we pray-read, we are nourished on the one hand, but certain elements are killed on the other hand. Perhaps you are troubled by doubts, hatred, jealousy, pride, or selfishness. Do you realize that these things can be killed through pray-reading the word? The more we take in the word with its killing power, the more our pride and all the negative elements within us are put to death. By pray-reading, the inward adversary is slain. After a time of pray-reading the word, we may discover that the adversary who was attacking us has disappeared. In a very practical sense, he has been slain by the word we have taken into us.

Do not think that the battlefield for the spiritual warfare is outside us. The battlefield is within us; in particular it is in our mind. All the elements of the adversary can be found in the mind. The way to slay them is to pray-read the word. As we pray-read God's word, the elements of the adversary within our mind will be killed one by one. In this way we shall gain the victory.

Out of His Mouth Proceeding the Judging Word

In Revelation 1:16 we are told that "out of His mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword." In Song of Songs 5:16, "His mouth is most sweet," and in the Gospels, "words

of grace" proceeded out of His mouth (Luke 4:22); but here "out of His mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword." This is His discerning, judging, "and slaying word" (Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17). The "words of grace" are for His supply of grace to His favored ones, whereas the "sharp two-edged sword" is for His dealing with negative persons and things. We often say that the Spirit speaks to the churches. Remember that the speaking Spirit today is just this Christ who speaks with a two-edged sword. There is judgment here, and we all have experienced this. Because of the church's degradation, we all need a certain amount of judgment.

Today all Christians need the judgment of the Lord by His word. Many times we have experienced this judgment because of our being mistaken and going astray from the Lord. Since we had wandered away from Him, He came to judge us. His speaking today is mainly a type of judgment. I can testify to you that if the Lord would speak to you, most of His words would be words of judgment. When He speaks, He judges. Every word out of His mouth in the churches today is like a sharp knife which judges us. The words which proceed out of the Lord's mouth are sharp, piercing into our being, dividing our soul from our spirit, and discerning the intents of our heart. This is the Christ we experience today in the church life.