

**The Spirit of God**  
**Week 4**  
**The Sword of the Spirit**

LBC 22/10/03

“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

**Ephesians 6:14-17**

**Introduction:**

We have discussed the fact that there is widespread confusion among Christians today concerning the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Christians are saying things and doing things that go totally against Scripture, and they are doing so while claiming to be **led by the Holy Spirit**.

**ILL - Slain in the Spirit.**

**Why is this so?** When people elevate personal experience above divine revelation, you will **ALWAYS** have confusion and error. People do not interpret the person, ministry and gifts of the Spirit in the light of His Word. **Why?** Christians today are not taught that the Word of God and the Spirit of God are co-labourers and partners in the work of God.

The relationship between the Bible and the Spirit of God is so close and intimate that it is often hard to distinguish the two from each other in their work. That is why the Bible is called the "**Sword of the Spirit**."

- To exalt the **Spirit** and neglect the **Word** will result in confusion and heresy. This is common among Pentecostal and Charismatic churches today.
- To exalt the **Word** and neglect the **Spirit** will result in dead, cold orthodoxy. This is common among fundamental churches today.

For us to function properly as Christians, for God's work to prosper, and for strong churches to be built, we **MUST** properly understand and apply the truth that the Bible is the Sword of the Spirit.

**\*\* Let me explain**

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**1. The Bible is inspired by the Spirit.**

**2 Peter 1:20, 21** “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

It is no surprise that the Word and the Spirit are partners because the Spirit **authored** the Word.

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**2. The Bible is empowered by the Spirit.**

**John 6:63** “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

**1 Corinthians 2:4, 5** “And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

It is the Holy Spirit who opens the blinded eyes and minds of men to the truths of the Word of God. He empowers the written Word that He authored. In a sense, the Holy Spirit energises His Word.

**ILL - Clearing land for Bro. Wittig.** The chain saw was a very powerful and effective tool - as long as it had petrol in the tank.

It is the living Word energised by the Spirit of life that accomplishes the purpose and work of God.

**ILL - Men who later preached "Sinners in the hands of an angry God" did not see the results that Jonathan Edwards saw, even though used the very same words.** Why? The Word was not EMPOWERED by the Spirit.

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### **3. The Spirit is "governed" by the Bible.**

The Holy Spirit will **NEVER** lead you contrary to the Word of God.

**ILL - If you attended Liberty Baptist Church, and then read the Answers Book, you would find that Pastor Piper preaches the same truths as are contained in that book.** That is no surprise because he wrote the book - why would he contradict himself?

There are professing Christians who claim to have had all kinds of weird and wonderful experiences under the influence of the Holy Spirit. There are others who claim that all those experiences are invalid. How can we know who is right and who is wrong? Just remember that: The Holy Spirit will **NEVER** lead you contrary to the Word of God.

**ILL - They are people today who believe that the Holy Spirit is leading them to ordain women and homosexuals as Christian ministers.** Eg. Anglican Church in Melbourne voting to ordain women as bishops. But, this cannot be so, because then the Spirit would contradict the very Word that He authored before time began! **1 Timothy 3:2**, "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife..."

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### **4. The Bible and the Spirit work together to save and sanctify.**

Salvation:

**John 3:5** "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

**1 Peter 1:23** "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

Sanctification:

**John 17:17** "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

**2 Corinthians 3:18** "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

- It is the Spirit who takes the Word and uses it to convict and save the sinner.
- It is the Spirit who takes the Word and uses it to strengthen and sanctify the saint.

**ILL - My salvation testimony. How could I understand the Bible? The Spirit of God.**

**ILL - The preaching of Bro. Hyles transformed my life because he preached the Word in the power of the Spirit.**

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## 5. The Bible and the Spirit are not soloists.

The Bible and the Holy Spirit do not act independently and exclusively of each other. Rather, they act as a team - a Divine Dynamic Duo!

**ILL - Peter's sermon at Pentecost. SEE Acts 2:16-18, 25-27, 34-35.** Yes, he preached in the fullness of the Holy Ghost - but what did he preach? **The Word!**

**ILL - The Comforter in John 14:26 was to remind the disciples of what? The WORDS** of Jesus!

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## 6. The Spirit exalts the Bible.

**Psalm 138:2** "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

- A Christian who does not love and exalt the Word is not a Spirit-filled Christian.
- A church that does not love and exalt the Word is not a Spirit-filled church.

Compare the following:

**Colossians 3:16** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

**Ephesians 5:18, 19** "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

- To be led by the Spirit is to be led by the Word.
- To be filled with the Spirit is to be filled with the Word.
- To be acquainted with the Spirit is to be acquainted with the Word.

**ILL – Dr. Williams. He is a Bible scholar, yet he also depends heavily upon the work of the Holy Spirit. He is BALANCED.**

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## Review / Discussion:

I have heard good Christian people defend their ideas about the Spirit, His gifts and His ministries by saying something like:

- "Well, I saw \_\_\_\_\_"
- "I heard \_\_\_\_\_"
- "But I felt \_\_\_\_\_."

I don't mean to be rude, but I don't care what you've **seen**, what you've **heard**, or what you've **felt**. What I do care about is **WHAT THE WORD SAYS**. We must **NEVER** elevate personal experience above divine revelation. Why? **The Bible IS the Sword of the Spirit.**

"...yea, let God be **true**, but every man a **liar**..."