



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

CHRIST THE LORD PARISH

1-5 ADMIRALITY ROAD, LEKKI PHASE 1, LEKKI

DIGGING DEEP – TUESDAY, 23 JULY 2024

THEME: THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE.

TOPIC: THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT AND PRAYING ALWAYS

TEXT: Ephesians 6:12-18 and Matthew 4:1-11

INTRODUCTION

Over the past 3 Tuesdays we have dealt deeply with five of the six key weapons of warfare for the believer. As has been reiterated, these 5 (Belt of truth, Breastplate of righteousness, Preparation of the gospel of peace, Shield of faith and Helmet of Salvation) are all defensive weapons. The sixth and key subject of our discussion today, The Sword of the Spirit, is the only offensive weapon. It is clearly a very important weapon that every soldier of Christ must have. The sword of the Spirit is the word of God. **In the spirit realm, battles are not fought with physical weapons but with words.** It is the most potent of all the weapons used in spiritual battles. The word of God is a powerful sword in the mouth of a believer. With it, you can defeat any force in any realm. Prayer is key because it is the platform for spiritual warfare.

The Attributes/Nature of the Word of God

1. **The word of God is God** (John 1:1). This means that God's word has the same potency and effect as the fullness of the godhead if appropriately and reverently deployed
2. **The word is quick and sharper than other weapons of man or the devil** (Heb 4:12, Mat 21:19-22). When the word is properly deployed, NOTHING can stop its effect. The devil and his agents have no choice but to obey.
3. **The word is powerful** (Heb 4:12; Ps 138:2). The power in the word derives from the simple fact in (1) above. The word of God carries all the essence of God Himself and is superior to any other word. While God gave Jesus a name above all other names...and indeed every knee bows at His name, He has honored his word above every one of His names. Which means that if God has uttered the word, it is sure to perform the purpose for which it has been sent. (Job 23:10-12, Is 55:10-11)
4. **The word is spirit** (John 6:63, 1 Cor 2:13) Because the sword of the spirit/the word of God is "of the Spirit", it is not to be trifled with and taken for granted. The spirit of God is behind every one of His words and gives backing to it, ensuring it fulfills purpose. We, like our father, can create (Gen 1:1-6, John 10:34)

How to Use the Word of God

This weapon is available for spiritual battles. When you know how to use this weapon, no force can withstand you. Know the word of God and memorize it so that when you are faced with an adverse situation, you will have the weapons to use to conquer the devil.

1. **Believe in the giver of the word.** That is, the word must mix with faith (Heb 11:6, Heb 4:2)
2. **Be filled with the Spirit** (John 6:63, Is 50:4). The word comes from the Holy Spirit who searches the deep things of God. The sword is not limited to what is written. When the Holy spirit reveals a specific word for your situation, it is rhema and should be spoken into that situation as directed by the Holy Spirit. Remember that the devil knows the word. So, you need the Holy Spirit, whose sword the word is, to remind you of the appropriate word for the situation. Learn from Jesus (Mat 4:1-11).
3. **Live holy and seek to please God.** The Holy Spirit will not partner a sinner to battle the enemy
4. **Speak the Word** (Deut 30:14, Prov 18:20-21, Mat 12:37). It is the word that is spoken that defeats the enemy. It is not enough to memorize the word. Be bold to declare it.

PRAYING ALWAYS

All the weapons of our warfare are not effective if not engaged in the place of prayers. When we come to the throne of grace during prayers (Heb 4:16) we engage the spirit realm where we get help to overcome the devil. To effectively deploy these weapons, Eph 6:18 directs us to:

1. Pray always (Luke 18:1, 1 Thess 5:17, Acts 12:5) – We must not be tired of prayers. Do realize that the devil does not want you to pray. So, be intentional in setting time aside to pray...then other prayer programs become additional.
2. Pray all manners of prayers and supplications – the spirit of God is not limited and hence we are not limited. Be bold to pray ALL types of prayers – deliverance, healing, supplication, prosperity etc. Load up on the appropriate words for any situation, then declare them as necessary.
3. Pray in the Spirit (Rom 8:26-27, 1 Cor 14:15) – We cannot pray always and without ceasing if we pray only in our understanding. Our vocabulary is too limited to cope.

Conclusion

Don't suffer in the hands of the devil when you already have in your possession the sword of the Spirit; a weapon that is guaranteed to always defeat him. our Bible contains more power than you can imagine. Study it and use it (as you speak the word) to defeat the enemy. To effectively do this, we must remember that the word **MUST** be mixed with faith and that we cannot afford to stop praying. The sword is “the sword of the Spirit”. So, we must desire the infilling of the Holy Spirit to effectively deploy His sword. We are more than conquerors in Jesus Name.