

EPHESIANS - Ephesians 6

Message 105

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Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

INTRO: Verse 10 of Ephesians 6, which begins the section we are working our way through starts like this, "Finally my brethren..." And in the next 11 verses he opens a window into the battle a Christian enters when he is translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son. Such a person enters a battle with the devil and demons.

Now because this is a spiritual battle, it is a battle in a realm we cannot see. This causes us many times to fail to recognize what is going on. God has chosen that the just shall live by faith, so we cannot see Him, the good angels, Satan, or demons. We are fighting an unseen battle and it is waged in the mind of every human being and the mind is also an unseen part, but it is in man.

The only way we can recognize what is going on in the unseen realm is through the eyes of the Bible. Today the secular world is doing huge amounts of study and speculation on the spiritual nature of humans. The secular world, by and large, does not give recognition to the immaterial part of man. Though the secular world recognizes such a thing as the mind, and it generally acknowledges that the brain is not the mind, yet they have no idea what the mind is. Type this question into omniscient Google: Is the brain the mind, or any such question and Google will cease to be omniscient.

But the fact that the spiritual realm cannot be seen makes it a subjective realm. It is this that makes a pastor's work very difficult when it comes to dealing with people and with demonic powers. This also makes it very difficult for every believer as he makes his pilgrimage through life.

f) The sword

Well, we have come to the last piece of military equipment of the Roman soldier, which Paul is using to illustrate the warfare of the Christian soldier in the spiritual, and unseen realm. Paul seeks

to show us what is happening in that realm by likening each piece of the soldier's equipment to some spiritual aspect of the Christian soldier's battle with Satan and his demonic forces.

-Take

Verse 17 of our passage says:

17 And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:

We looked at the helmet of salvation in the last message and now we want to give time to the sword of the Spirit. But let me first point out that the command "to take" as given concerning the helmet applies to the sword as well. The believer is to take both the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. We will look at the use of God's Word as the sword of the Spirit later but here the Christian soldier is commanded to take this sword.

Sometimes in Sunday School class we would do what is called a sword drill. A passage of Scripture was given and then to win you had to find the passage and be the first one to read it. The Roman soldier spent a lot of time with his sword. They would practice on each other.

One of the most powerful uses of the Word of God comes from memorizing it. It is this area we are very weak in.

-The sword

We note now what the believer is instructed to take. It is the sword of the Spirit. The sword used by the Roman soldier was two-edged. Albert Barnes

pointed out that the word "two-edged" is literally "two-mouthed." He says the meaning is this: "The word mouth was given to the sword because it seemed to devour all before it. It consumed or destroyed, as a wild beast does. The comparison of the word of God to a sword, or to an arrow, is designed to show its power of penetrating the heart..." (Comment on Hebrews 4:12).

He was commenting on Hebrews 4:12 which says:

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word of God is very precise. It has the ability to get into the minutest parts of our being. It can expose what nothing else can expose in us. You will remember that a woman was caught in adultery by the Scribes and Pharisees. And they brought her to Jesus to catch Him in His words and they said that the Scriptures said such a woman should be stoned and then they asked what He recommended.

He said, "Well, whoever of you is without sin, you go ahead and cast the first stone." Then He stooped and wrote on the Ground. I recommend it was something from the Word of God, maybe the 10 commandments. And one by one they began to leave, beginning with the oldest. The Word had penetrated their consciences.

It is sometimes said of words that they cut. Isaiah said in 49:2, "And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword..." The

two mouthed sword cut both ways. I wonder if the Word of God is referred to as being two-edged because the written Word of God is referred to as the Word of God, and the Jesus Christ is referred to as the Word of God. John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." This refers to Jesus Christ.

Now we may say of every piece of equipment listed in our passage for the soldier is protective. This is true of the sword as well. But in the sword we now have one part of the soldier's equipment that is offensive. It is the only offensive part. And that raises this question; how is it that only one offensive item given to the Christian soldier is the sword? The Roman soldier used a variety of weapons. These were a pugio or dagger worn on the belt, a spear, a sword, a javelin, and sometimes bows and arrows.

So our question is, why is only one offensive piece of a soldier's equipment mentioned? And I propose it is because the Christian does not have more offensive equipment at his disposal. I further propose that the reason for this is that this one sword is sufficient for all the Christian soldier's needs. 1 Peter 1:3 says the Lord's divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue. This knowledge comes from the Word of God.

Philosophy and modern psychology have no place in Christianity. The Christian has the Word of God and it is sufficient for all.

-of the Spirit

Now notice the little preposition in the words "the sword OF the Spirit." This little word "of" gave me no little difficulty in interpretation. My conclusion is that it is the genitive of production, meaning that the sword of the Spirit is the sword produced by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was instrumental in the production of the Word of God. Turn to 2 Timothy 3. Paul gives some very instructive words on this most important topic. We'll read verses 16-17. It says:

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Every Scripture, every holy writing, which is what the Bible contains, is given by inspiration of God. Now the word "inspiration" is *theopneustos*. It means every word in the Bible is God breathed, or we could say, "God spirited."

Now go to 2 Peter 1. We begin in verse 19:

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they

were moved by the Holy Spirit.

The Word of God was not produced by man. Man was the instrument God used by God to write down the words that the Holy Spirit inspired in them.

My wife and I took many correspondence courses from Liberty Bible School. And a Doctor Harold Willmington put the courses together and taught many of them and he said something I have never forgotten. He said, "The Bible is not a book man would write if he could, nor is it a book that man could write if he would." If you were to write a book that would help man universally to become godly, righteous people, would you give such accounts as Abraham lying about his wife or David and Bathsheba? Yet it is a book that is honest with the facts.

And if man wanted to write a book like the Bible, he couldn't if he wanted to. How could man know how creation took place? He couldn't. How could man have known the scientific facts the Bible recorded so long ago, and some of those have only been learned in our modern scientific age. Who could have written any of the prophecies? Nobody. No, man would not write it if he could and he couldn't if he would. It is the book of all books. This alone is a huge subject.

One of the greatest privileges of the believer is to possess a copy of the entire Word of God to man. I just did several messages in Plautdietsch on the Bible. The Bible, how we got it, how it was preserved, and how it has been transmitted is a subject to cause great marvel. No matter which way you study it, there is no book, nor has there ever been, nor will there ever be, that will

rival the Bible and that holds true from many different perspectives.

God communicated His mind and His will to man in a way that is difficult to describe. There are stories, historical facts, figures of speech, records of God's people sinning, records of godly people. There are scientific facts that have never been refuted and were written long before man learned them in modern scientific ways. There are prophesies written long before they happened, and a history written of when they happened. They are so accurate that some think they were written after the fact. There are psychological truths that no modern psychology has even tapped into yet and it is a very common topic of study in higher learning today.

Now the Bible has a long list of things it is useful for. We are born again by the Word of God. We grow through the Word of God in our faith. We mature in the Word of God. Nothing will reveal our inner workings like the Word of God and then show us how to be cleansed from those things. Listen to 4:12-13 again. The writer says:

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

It is amazing how the Word of God can expose our inner workings and then show

us how to get rid of those things and how to become pure inside.

But in the context we are to take up the sword of the Spirit to do spiritual warfare. In the context we are dealing with wrestling with, not flesh and blood, people; but with principalities, with powers, with the rulers of the darkness of this age, with spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places. It is in this light that the Word of God is pictured as the sword of the Spirit.

But the purpose of mentioning the Bible as the sword of the Spirit in our context is in using it to defeat the demonic forces around us. Jesus said that the thief comes to steal and to kill and destroy. And we are given one weapon to overcome every attack, and that is the sword of the Spirit. So it is obvious that in order to use this sword effectively we must learn to use it. The Roman soldier practiced with his weapons all the time.

Let me draw a picture for you. Here is a Bible. It is the sword of the Spirit. But it is really quite helpless on its own. It just lies there. Inside it is the potential to overcome every onslaught of Satan. But it is quite useless as long as it is not picked up and read and used.

What is required for God to do His work through His word, is for man to pick it up and read it and study it and obey it. When that happens, all kinds can happen. So when, through reading or hearing the Word of God conviction sets in on the heart and man is brought to humility and he repents and puts his trust in Jesus Christ, now this same Word of God can be used by this saved man to defeat the

forces of darkness.

As soon as anyone becomes a Christian, Satan will set about to destroy him. And if he can't destroy him, he will seek to keep him powerless by plaguing him with besetting sins. Satan attacks Christians in many different ways. Turn to 2 Corinthians 2. The Corinthians had a man in their church who had married his step-mother. Paul was appalled and wrote and told the church to excommunicate this man and to not delay. Well, they did so. Then the man repented and the Church would not forgive him. And so Paul instructed them that when repentance has taken place forgiveness is due.

So in 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 Paul now wrote this to them:

10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ,

11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Satan can take advantage of us in ways we might never even suspect. He can take advantage of us when we do not deal with sin the way we should, and he can take advantage of us when we deal with sin the way we should. He could take advantage of the Corinthians in this case both ways.

And here Paul teaches that if we do not respond right, Satan can now take advantage of us in that way. And so he says, "...for we are not ignorant of his devices." And I would say this, if we do not know the Word of God, we will be ignorant of Satan's devices. It is only

through a knowledge of the Word of God that we can understand the ways of the devil and defeat him.

Turn to 1 Timothy 2:24-26. I spoke on this passage some time ago. It says:

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

This passage has been used to show that repentance is a gift. The teaching by some is that if you don't get the gift you can't repent, and if you are one of the many reprobated people, you will not get this gift. The question comes from verse 25 which says the pastor is to correct in humility those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance.

Notice in verse 25 that it speaks of "those in opposition." The KJV rightly translates this as, "those that oppose themselves." That is what it literally says. I won't take time to deal with all that here. You can find the message on this passage on sermonaudio.com/mecl.

The second difficult part of this verse is when it says, "...if God perhaps will grant them repentance..." That sounds like it is up to God whether He will grant repentance or not. But this may be

translated as, "...lest God should grant them repentance..." That is, these people are standing in opposition to themselves, "lest God should grant them repentance." If once they would stop standing in opposition to themselves God would grant them repentance, and that is what they are resisting. We, as proud humans, resist little as strongly as we resist repentance.

Now I deal with all that in the message. But verse 26 is the verse we want to consider:

26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

People who stand in opposition to themselves and will not admit their wrong, which in the context has to do with foolish and unlearned questions, have been taken captive by the devil to do his will. This is a very common snare. And once he catches anyone in this snare, he can get such people to do his will. The devil can wreak havoc in a family or church with just one such person, and that person may be a professing Christian.

And what needs to happen? They need to come to their senses. But how to bring such a person to their senses? Well, you may not be able to do it because they have a free will. But Paul encourages Timothy to not quarrel, to be gentle, to teach, be patient, and in humility correcting such a person.

Now the time may come when other measures must be taken because the devil will use a person who refuses such correction to

destroy God's work. But we ourselves can be caught by the devil in such a snare. And what is amazing is that true repentance will snap the snare of the devil in a moment of time. When we recognize what is happening by knowing the Word of God, we can escape this snare altogether.

Then the devil may catch us in temptation. Go now to 1 Corinthians 10. Paul has been talking about the ways the devil caught Israel when they were in the wilderness. We begin in verse 6:

6 *Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.*

7 *And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."*

8 *Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;*

9 *nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;*

10 *nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.*

11 *Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*

12 *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*

13 *No temptation has overtaken you*

except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

Verse 13 is a very key verse in using the sword of the Spirit in our Christian battle. The temptations we face are common to man and they will work time after time. We never learn, unless we learn the Word of God. God will make a way of escape around every temptation, but I propose that to find that way we need to know the Word of God.

Now consider something in our text here. It speaks of the sword of the Spirit as being the Word of God. I was surprised when one translation translated the words, "Word of God," as the "sayings of God." And I immediately set out to know why and I found the reason. In some passages the word translated "word" is *logos* and in others it is *rheema*. I expected it to be *logos* in our text, but it is *rheema*.

The phrase "the Word of God" occurs 43 times in the NT and only 5 times it is *rheema*. Vines Dictionary gives the difference like this: "The significance of *rhema* (as distinct from *logos*) is exemplified in the injunction to take "the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God," Eph. 6:17; here the reference is not to the whole Bible as such, but to the individual scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in time of need, a prerequisite being the regular storing of

the mind with Scripture" (683).

For evidence for what Vines says turn to Matthew 4. When Satan tempted Jesus, at each temptation Jesus quoted a specific Scripture that met Satan's error, and Jesus overcame every temptation by using the Word of God. We begin in verse 1:

1 *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

2 *And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.*

3 *Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."*

4 *But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"*

Three times Satan tried and three times Jesus met the temptation with a particular Scripture. All three came from the book of Deuteronomy. But look at verse 4, that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word, *rhema*, that proceeds from the mouth of God. The use of the word *rhema* here seems to bear out Vines conclusion. This puts a very high premium on the memorization of Scripture.

Then, going further, our battle with Satan, involves demonization. Let me mention what I have said in other messages. It is a matter the Church needs to understand. The Bible does not speak of demon possession. One of the most common teachings regarding this is that a Christian cannot have demons because a Christian cannot be demon possessed.

Well, the Bible does not use the phrase "demon possessed." It uses the word "demonized." I would further say that this is much more common than we would expect.

Now this is an area of battle with Satan that the Church has almost entirely lost. It is an area of reality we would prefer not to hear about. It is much more pleasant to go through life not knowing about this very problematic area, but it is where we need to learn to fight Satan sword to sword. This is a part of life that is happening all over, but it mostly remains hidden. Very few will talk about it, and ignorance truly seems to be bliss. When you get a call for help and you do not sense you are gifted in this area, what do you do? Well, I am not gifted in this area, but I usually do all I can to get such a person to help.

I do know this much, without knowing the Word of God on this subject one cannot help. One has to know the Word of God and be able to use the sword of the Spirit to help in such cases. So just what is a demonized person. Well, the demoniacs of Gadara in Jesus day are an example of such people as we normally think of as demon possessed. They can be tied up with chains and break them. They might go about naked or dwell around tombs. Now you know that the chief demon in that case had the name Legion. Listen to Mark 5:9:

9 Then He (Jesus) asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many."

A Roman Legion was made up of 4-6,000 thousand soldiers. So you know this man was literally infested with demons. But

what of a person who is demonized by one or two? They may be a member in the church and wear a suit and tie. I have very little doubt that many church problems come from professing believers who are demonized and usually neither they nor the church recognize what is going on.

The devil has destroyed individuals, families, and churches when he finds a person in whom he has room to employ his devices. In many cases today, such people are not recognized by the majority of churches. I believe some such persons whom Satan is using are pampered by the church as they seek to help such a person, never realizing they are sucking them dry. I believe that has happened to me, at least to some extent.

Not long ago I got an e-mail. I had been in contact with a man and he had shared some of the things happening in his home that were certainly demonic. And just recently I got another e-mail and let me read part of it for you:

"I thought you might be interested in how things are going... (He had asked me about a certain book that dealt with demonism.) ...In our house things got strange, after I bought that book. It seemed like deamons got afraid or anxious. Just to mention a few things: One of my daughters told me, when she had gone to the bathroom in the night, she heard some kind of voice, or sound, coming from my office and she just had imagined I was "like always" listening to messages. It just had seemed strangely loud to her for the night. But I wasn't in the office. (Let me just add here that numerous things had happened some time before this already.) 2 of my daughters "rebuked" me another day

listening to whatsapp messages so loudly in the bathroom early in the morning and slamming the door when I went out, but I wasn't in the bathroom. That same morning, around the same time, as I was lying in my bed, I heard noises like running water and like somebody was working in the kitchen. Later I asked whom had been in the kitchen at that time, but all of them had still been in bed. One day afternoon my daughter was sitting on a fourwheeler outside the garage with the motor running, and suddenly the fourwheeler drove forward and crashed into my pickup. Nobody knows what happened. The daughter sitting on the fourwheeler said she couldn't explain anything of it, the only thing she remembered was, she tried to brake the fourwheeler but it didn't work. Another daughter watching it from aside, said the same."

That is part of a much longer story. The difficulties caused by this in this home are enormous. This man is under constant attack.

As I was working on this message I got this e-mail. It says in part:

"I know you have an entire series on demonology. I haven't had a chance to listen to all that material yet so if you would be so kind to help me here..."

"My niece (who is a young adult) just reached out to me scared that she has a demon. She says she has depersonalization/derealization/ptsd disorder, that it first happened to her when she was 15 (she is a young adult now) after a family split and being abandoned for 2 weeks. She says she feels disconnected to everyone and everything

and doesn't feel like she is really "here" and can't love people. She is struggling with alcohol and she has had thoughts of suicide in the past, when she was 21.

"Last month, my niece stayed overnight at my house for the first time. I had her sleeping in the spare bunk in my daughter (3 yo) and son's (1 yo) room. She woke me up in the middle of the night terrified because she had a violent dream where she had killed my baby. I cited many Scriptures to her and prayed with her that night. She has messaged me many times since then asking for Scriptural advice on different things happening in her life and asking for my take on what is happening in our society right now.

"I don't know what to do . . . I feel like this is beyond my experience or knowledge. I don't have a clear understanding of demonology. She doesn't live near me so I can't recommend her to a Biblical counsellor. I would really appreciate your advice on this."

Now when you have such a situation in the church, it seems it is dynamite to touch it. If I see it right from my experience, if a church deals with such a person, that church may well arouse the hordes of Satan. There may be sympathizers who do not recognize what is happening and they can be used by the devil to destroy further and think they are serving God. The enemy we are battling is a master of destruction. He comes, Jesus said, but to steal and to kill and to destroy, and he does.

Now, one of the most difficult things about this all is that it is a battle against unseen forces. It all seems so

subjective that many are caused to doubt or to question if this is actually real? And when you work with it, it is a draining battle.

I confess, my wisdom and understanding on this subject is so limited that I do not know how to help people where demons are really at work. In our own culture, speaking of Mennonites, we write most of these cases off as being a nerve problem. We call it "Narrfen Trubels." Others write this off as some kind of mental problem, and in modern psychology they are given various names.

I would not be so sure of the reality of this if I had not gotten to know Ken Lobdell and if I had not seen some set free. Ken had worked with natives somewhere around Williams Lake, BC, I think toward the Bella Coola area. And here, because he wanted to be able to help, he learned to handle those cases. He was very gifted and one of the most, gentle and kind persons I have ever met. When he dealt with demons it was always with great respect and he never raised his voice and he was never afraid that I could tell. He could be in danger of attack by vicious people and he would command the demons and they listened to him. He has passed on now but he helped thousands of people. When you talked to him about this subject he could tell you case after case that related to whatever you were asking about.

And one of the outstanding things about him was that when he was dealing with a spirit, he always used some specific Word of God. There was hardly a situation he did not have a passage of Scripture for by memory. And I did learn this much, the devil was shut down by the Word of God.

Demons were powerless when the Word of God that applied to the situation was used. And it is amazing how the Word of God overpowers demonic powers. If ever I have seen the sword of the Spirit at work, it is in this area of the battle.

And in our text, the battle with demonic powers is the context. Now notice that it is the Word of God that is the sword the Spirit. And what is so crucial to understand is that if there is no person able to use the Word of God in certain situations, the sword cannot do its work on its own.

The sword the Spirit uses is the Word of God but there must be some human agency to handle the sword. In our Bible study we came across a verse a while ago. We were studying the word mercy, and how compassion is related to mercy.

Turn to Matthew 9. Jesus had just raised a girl from the dead, healed two blind men, and a mute man who was demon possessed had been brought to Him. He cast out the demon and the mute man spoke. And it goes on like this in verse 36:

36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

38 "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

God has chosen that it is saved sinners

who are to help a lost world through the Word of God. He was moved with compassion toward these great crowds of people that needed to be ministered to. So He said to His disciples that the harvest truly is great but the laborers are few. And then He said they were to pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest.

Turn to John 16. Just before He was crucified He told the disciples that He was going away and they were sad. We begin in verse 6:

6 "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

8 "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 "of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

10 "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

11 "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

So the great need is for men of God for the work of the ministry. The Lord has sent the Holy Spirit and we have the Word of God and with these, we can defeat the devil in the battle.

CONCL: So we conclude. When life goes on as usual it is easy to lose sight of what our passage reminds us of. It says the

Christian's battle is not with flesh and blood. Our battle is with demonic forces. These forces are out to destroy us and they are everywhere.

In our verse this morning we learn of the one weapon we have as Christians. It is a weapon that is capable of dealing with every aspect of life, including doing battle with the devil. I sometimes feel I should have stressed memorizing key passages more than I have. It is amazing to me that when Paul speaks of the Word of God that he uses the word rhema, rather than logos.

Let me read the comment from Vine's Dictionary once more:

"The significance of *rhema* (as distinct from *logos*) is exemplified in the injunction to take "the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God," Eph. 6:17; here the reference is not to the whole Bible as such, but to the individual scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in time of need, a prerequisite being the regular storing of the mind with Scripture" (683).

There is nothing quite as powerful when you speak with others or when you confront evil spirits than when you can quote a passage that bears on the subject you are dealing with. Then further, when you know chapter and verse, when you are talking with someone and you can turn to a passage and say, "Read what it says here" it carries much more weight than when you say, "Well it says somewhere something like this." That is OK, but it will usually not carry the same weight.

The Word of God is our one offensive weapon. It is a powerful weapon. And it has everything needed for life and godliness. Today's Bible schools have added psychology to their Bible classes. It would be good if it was truly biblical psychology. But what is called "Biblical Psychology" is usually secular psychology but it uses the Bible to deal with the problems.

Every Christian should be committed to the plenary, verbal, inspiration of Scripture. It is a book from heaven, and the only book from heaven. It contains all of what God wanted us to know.