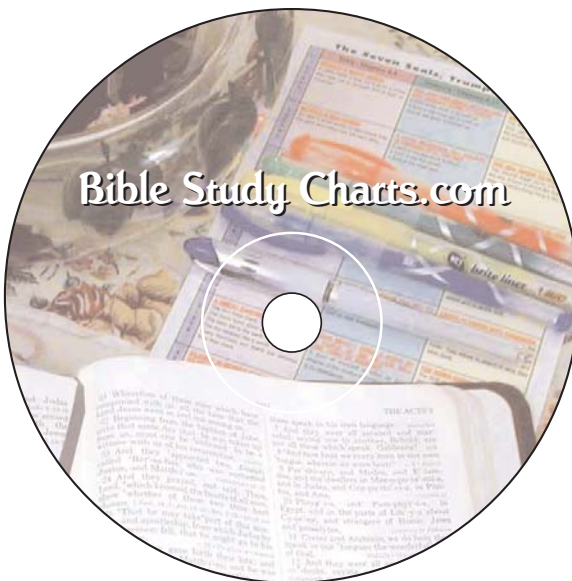


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The Sword of the Spirit - God's Word

I. THE WORD OF GOD IS QUICK AND POWERFUL

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 discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

1. The Bible has a dividing power. The Bible will separate man from sin (Psalm 119:11) or sin will separate man from the Bible (Isaiah 59:2).
2. The Bible has a reflecting power (James 1 22-25).
3. The Bible has a cleansing power (Ephesians 5:26). David prayed that God would wash him from iniquity and cleanse him from sin (Psalms 51:2).
4. The Bible has reproductive power (1 Peter 1:23). We are children of God because we have been born into the family of God by the incorruptible seed of God. This is the new birth (John 3:1-7).
5. The Bible has a nourishing power (1 Peter 2:2). The Bible is spiritual food for the soul. We can only remain strong in the Lord by reading and applying the Word of God.

II. THE WORD IS INSPIRED OF GOD

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible is the inspired word of God. By "inspiration" we mean the Holy Spirit exerted His supernatural influence upon the the writers of the Bible.

1. The Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible (2 Peter 1:21)
2. Man is the instrument used by the Holy Spirit to write the Bible.
3. Results: the infallible Word of God.

Therefore the Bible is free from error and absolutely trustworthy (Psalms 119: 89), (Matthew 24:35).

III. GOD'S WORD COMMANDS BELIEVER'S TO STUDY THE SCRIPTURES

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

"Study to show thyself approved unto God" is a command. As you study the Bible, you will discover that it does not just contain the Word of God, it IS the word of God. John 6:63

As you study the Bible, ask yourself these questions:

1. Who is speaking: God, an angel or a man?
2. To whom is he speaking: to the nation of Israel, to the Gentiles, to the church, to men in general or to some individual man or being?
3. How can this Scripture be applied to my own life to make me a better Christian?

IV. GOD'S WORD IS PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE AND INSTRUCTION

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible is a sure guide for our lives. The prophets and apostles did not speak from themselves, but delivered what they received of God,

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. 2 Peter 1:21

It is profitable for all purposes of the Christian life. It is of use to all, for all need to be taught, corrected, and reproofed. There is something in the Scriptures suitable for every case.

The Bible instructs us concerning the Word of God that we are to:

Love it exceedingly. - Psalms 119:97,113,159,167

Delight in it. - Psalms 1:2

Regard it, as sweet. - Psalms 119:103

Esteem it, above all things. - Job 23:12

Long after it. - Psalms 119:82

Stand in awe of it. - Psalms 119:161; Isaiah 66:2

Keep it, in remembrance. - Psalms 119:16

Grieve when men disobey it. - Psalms 119:158

Hide it, in our hearts. - Psalms 119:11

Hope in it. - Psalms 119:74,81,147

Meditate in it. - Psalms 1:2; 119:99,148

Rejoice in it. - Psalms 119:162; Jeremiah 15:16

Trust in it. - Psalms 119:42

Obey it. - Psalms 119:67; Luke 8:21; John 17:6

Speak of it. - Psalms 119:172

Esteem it, as a light. - Psalms 119:105

Pray to be taught by it. - Psalms 119:12-13,33,66

Pray to be conformed to it. - Psalms 119:133

Plead the promises of it, in prayer. - Psalms 119:25,28,41,76,169

Oh that we may love our Bible more, and keep closer to it, then shall we find happiness as promised by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the main subject of both Testaments. We best oppose error by gaining a solid knowledge of the word of truth; and the greatest kindness we can do to our children, is to instruct them as early as possible to make known to them the great promises contained in the Bible

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:14-15