

## **The Sword of the Spirit - May 4, 2022**

This blog contains my thoughts and impressions on the sermon preached at my home church, Centerpoint Community Church. Its purpose is to encourage and challenge the reader to dig deeper into the scriptures, God's living word to us. Today's installment may contain some phrases that may be confusing concerning spiritual warfare.

What is spiritual warfare?

As we grow in the Lord, we will experience seasons of heavy battle in the spiritual realm. Satan and his cohort are not delighted that we have chosen to live for Jesus. Their ultimate goal is to destroy us, ruin our testimony, and make us ineffective. Jesus says in John 10:10 (AMP) :

The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].

This thief fights dirty. He will use any and everything he can to stop us. Sometimes the attacks will come through humans. Quite often those who are closest to us will unknowingly be used by the enemy. Many times we will simply give in to sin and put the shackles on ourselves.

The message that Pastor Doug shared from Judges 3:12-30 is such a rich example of a call to battle. Decades of bondage to foreign rulers have subdued Israel and stolen not only their provision but their hearts. God's people were living in the promised land yet they were not free. They had been deceived and lead astray.

Let's look at Judges 3:12-14 (AMP):

(12)Now the Israelites again did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, since they had done what was evil in the sight of the LORD. (13)And Eglon gathered to him the sons of Ammon and Amalek, and went and struck down Israel [in defeat], and they took possession of the City of Palm Trees (Jericho). (14) And the Israelites served Eglon king of Moab eighteen years.

The Lord uses the enemy Eglon as His tool to draw His people's attention back to Himself. Eighteen years of servitude.

Let's think about our walk with the Lord. Do we have anything that is holding us captive and drawing our hearts away from our Abba Father? We can see that

there are consequences for rebellion. But the tests that come our way are only designed to help us see how much we need God. He waits to hear our crying and then will send deliverance. This happens in verse 15, God raised up a man to rescue them, Ehud. By the way, the name Ehud in Hebrew means “He that praises.”

Pastor Doug really brought to life the confrontation of Eglon and how Ehud was able to lead the battle which ultimately lead Israel into freedom and peace.

As we think about this story, how can we apply it to our lives today?

We need to learn how to use the sword of the Spirit! Hebrews 4:12 says:

12 For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart.

We need to learn how to use this Holy Sword properly. God is love and His Word is the truth. When we speak the truth in His love it goes forth in power and disables the enemy! Remember Ephesians 6:12(Amp)

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places.

Practicing how to use the sword of the Spirit comes from a place of time spent with Him.

Discovery of how every inch of the blade is razor-sharp. It divides exposes and judges the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. Be ready to move into intercessory prayer and fight the spiritual wickedness that is holding people captive in darkness.

The trumpet is calling us to battle.

Your Sister in Jesus,  
Liz