

“The Sword In My Hands”

March 2, 2008 * John 15:1-8

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word...I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” ~ Ps. 119:9,11

I. Review

A. Why should I fight for purity?

B. What lessons does the Cross teach?

1. I am _____; there is no _____ for sin – only a sacrifice.
2. I am _____; Jesus has _____ in _____ the price demanded for my sinning.
3. The Cross gives me a new _____ & _____ for living my life.

C. What does it mean that Jesus is the ‘warrior in my heart’?

1. I have Jesus’ _____.
2. I have Jesus’ _____.
3. I have Jesus’ _____ & _____.

D. What is the Great Purity Principle?

That which we allow to _____ our hearts the most, and that which we allow to _____ our souls the most is what we will _____ our hearts, souls and bodies to in the end.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: OUR WEAPONRY FOR FIGHTING SIN & SATAN – WEAPON #1: GOD’S WORD

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.” (2 Cor.10:4).

I. If we do not feed regularly on God’s Word we will never be free

A. How did Jesus win his combat with Satan in the wilderness?

B. What things did Jesus say about his Word?

C. Why is God’s Word that important for us?

THE BIBLE IS A BANQUET TABLE OF HEAVEN’S

**SPREAD OUT BEFORE ME
DAY AND NIGHT, RIGHT AT MY FINGERTIPS, AVAILABLE TO
FEED ME AND FILL ME ANY TIME I WANT.**

II. What Happens To Us When We Feed On God’s Word?

A. It _____ my _____. (vs.7)

B. God’s Word gives me _____ for living life _____. (vs.7)

C. God’s Word leads me to true _____. (vs.8)

D. God’s Word gives me _____ when my road is dark. (vs.8)

E. God’s Word shows me the true _____ of things. (vss.8-10)

1. If I struggle with impurity, is it because I love sin too much?

2. How may Scripture warn us as we read it?
a. It may warn us of _____ faults. (vs.12)

b. It may warn us of _____ sins. (vs.13)

3. When God’s Word warns us, what should be our response?

This Week’s Homework:

1. Identify an area of sin where you struggle. Find 5 Bible verses that deal with that area. Write them out and memorize them.
2. If you do not read the Bible daily, NOW is the time to start the habit. Pick a 15” time; pick a place; pick a book (if just starting, choose *Matthew*); pick a notebook – then read, reflect, record, respond. Share some of what God speaks to you with your small group.
3. Jesus said, “If you love me, you will obey what I command” (John 14:15). If impurity is a matter of loving God too little, then identify five things that try to steal away your love for God. For each thing, write a paragraph explaining why you should value God more than this.

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“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word...I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” ~ Ps. 119:9,11

I. Review

A. Why should I fight for purity?

Jesus died to make us pure. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. God created us to be holy. God commands us to be holy. We will be sinless in heaven; God expects us to move in that direction now. Purity is proof that we are saved. To not fight for purity is to abuse (or take advantage) of the grace of God. Purity leads to a better and happier life. Purity is royal behavior; sin is animal behavior. All impurity will be destroyed by God’s wrath. Purity makes us more useful to God. It is the only way we will see God.

B. What lessons does the Cross teach?

1. I am **guilty**; there is no **excuse** for sin – only a sacrifice.
2. I am **forgiven**; Jesus has **paid** in **full** the price demanded for my sinning.
3. The Cross gives me a new **vision** & **power** for living my life.

C. What does it mean that Jesus is the ‘warrior in my heart’?

1. I have Jesus’ **friendship**.
2. I have Jesus’ **fellowship**.
3. I have Jesus’ **feeding** & **filling**.

D. What is the Great Purity Principle?

That which we allow to **fill** our hearts the most, and that which we allow to **feed** our souls the most is what we will **give** our hearts, souls and bodies to in the end.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: OUR WEAPONRY FOR FIGHTING SIN & SATAN – WEAPON #1: GOD’S WORD

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.” (2 Cor.10:4).

I. If we do not feed regularly on God’s Word we will never be free

A. How did Jesus win his combat with Satan in the wilderness?

Three times Satan came at Jesus pressing right against where he knew Jesus would be most vulnerable, and three times Jesus knocked him back. All three times Jesus used but one weapon: God’s Word. “It is written” Jesus kept on saying. He clung to God’s Word, until the devil fled.

B. What things did Jesus say about his Word?

John 8:31-32 – “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.” (Matt.7:24-25) In Matthew 24:35 Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

C. Why is God’s Word that important for us?

THE BIBLE IS A BANQUET TABLE OF HEAVEN’S RICHEST FOOD SPREAD OUT BEFORE ME DAY AND NIGHT, RIGHT AT MY FINGERTIPS, AVAILABLE TO FEED ME AND FILL ME ANY TIME I WANT.

II. What Happens To Us When We Feed On God’s Word?

A. It **revives** my **soul**. (vs.7)

B. God’s Word gives me **wisdom** for living life **well**. (vs.7)

C. God’s Word leads me to true **joy**. (vs.8)

D. God’s Word gives me **direction** when my road is dark. (vs.8)

E. *God's Word shows me the true value of things. (vss.8-10)*

1. *If I struggle with impurity, is it because I love sin too much?*

No. More likely is that I love God too little, for Jesus said, 'If you love me, you will obey me.'

2. *How may Scripture warn us as we read it?*

a. *It may warn us of hidden faults. (vs.12)*

b. *It may warn us of willful sins. (vs.13)*

3. *When God's Word warns us, what should be our response?*

We need to learn to listen and repent of our rebelliousness.

Reading the Bible is not for the faint of heart. Keep it up for very long and you will discover that what the Bible says of itself is true. Hebrews 4:12 – “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing of soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

This Week's Homework:

1. Identify an area of sin where you struggle. Find 5 Bible verses that deal with that area. Write them out and memorize them.
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