



THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR

PART SIX

EKKLESIA EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP

C. STEPHEN DAVID

- 1. BELT OF TRUTH (Eph. 6:14)**—Put on the belt of truth (*aletheia*) to stand against the schemes of the devil
- 2. BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (Eph. 6:14)**—Put on the breastplate of righteousness to stand against the schemes of the devil
- 3. SHOES FOR YOUR FEET, HAVING PUT ON THE READINESS GIVEN BY THE GOSPEL OF PEACE (Eph. 6:15)**—Put on the gospel of peace to stand against the schemes of the devil
- 4. THE SHIELD OF FAITH (Eph. 6:16)**—"In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one"—Put on the shield of faith to stand against the schemes of the devil



THE HELMET OF SALVATION, AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD (Eph. 6:17)—Put on the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God to stand against the schemes of the devil

A. HELMET OF SALVATION

Kent Hughes: The helmet had a band to protect the forehead and plates for the cheeks and extended down in back to protect the neck. When the helmet was strapped in place, it exposed little besides the eyes, nose, and mouth... No soldier's uniform was complete without a proper helmet. Paul presents the helmet as a metaphor for salvation—"the helmet of salvation".



SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL:

- Pollution of the mind that the Gospel isn't true
- Distortion of the message of the Gospel (health, wealth, miracles)
- False assurance of salvation (no genuine faith and repentance)
- No assurance of salvation (in genuine faith and repentance)
- Salvation can be lost (in light of your sins and weaknesses)
- Blurring future salvation and engrossing in present earthly affairs

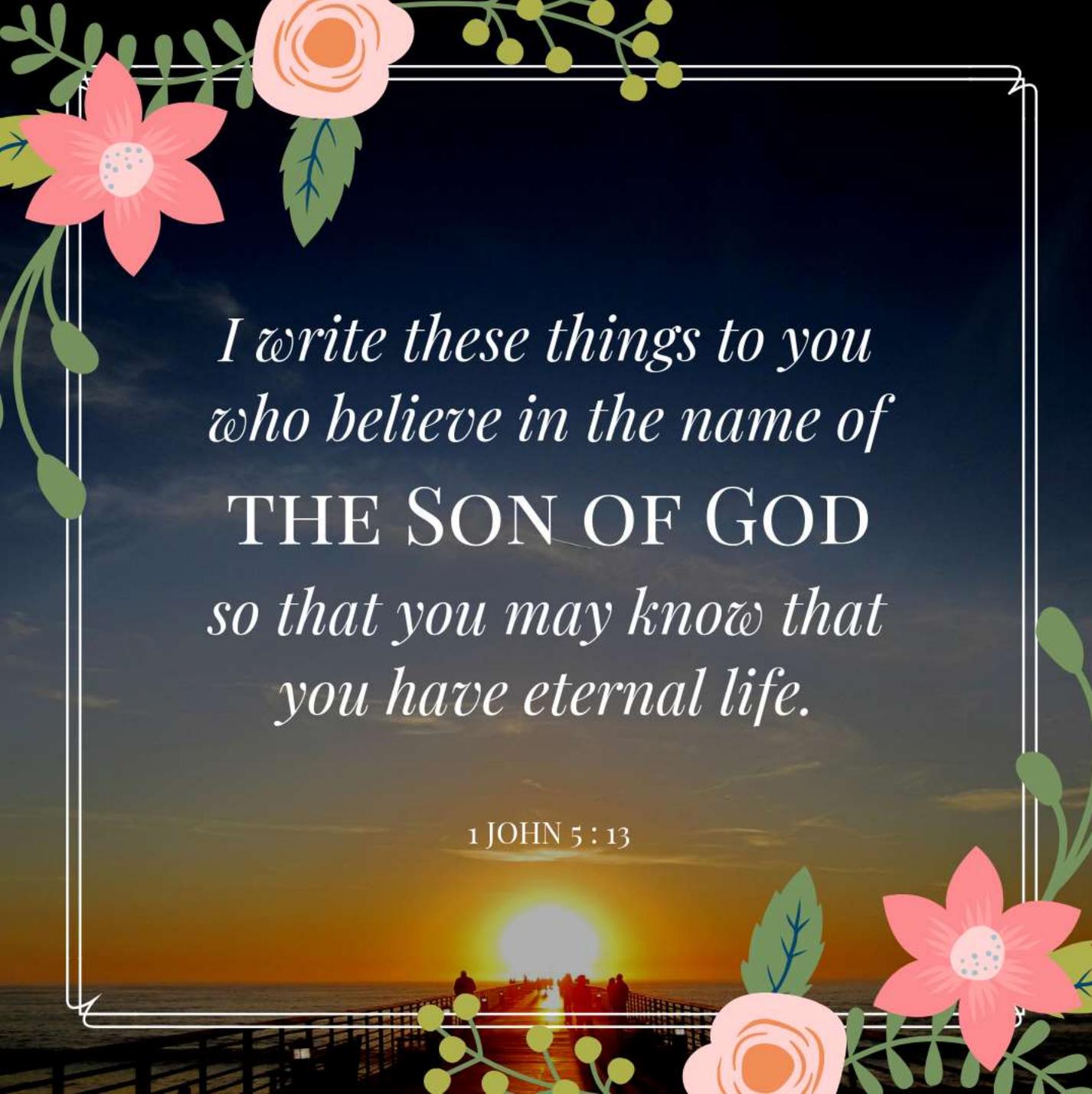
WHAT IS THE HELMET OF SALVATION?

1 Thessalonians 5:8, “But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, **and for a helmet the hope of salvation.**”

The helmet of salvation is the assurance of salvation.

WHAT IS THE HELMET OF SALVATION?

Ephesians 1:13-14, “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **who is the GUARANTEE [PRESENT ASSURANCE]** of our inheritance until **we ACQUIRE possession of it [FUTURE FULFILLMENT]**, to the praise of his glory.”



*I write these things to you
who believe in the name of
THE SON OF GOD
so that you may know that
you have eternal life.*

1 JOHN 5 : 13



**Past: The
Reception of
Salvation**

JOHN 10:27-28

MY SHEEP LISTEN TO MY VOICE; I KNOW THEM, AND THEY FOLLOW ME. I GIVE THEM ETERNAL LIFE, AND THEY WILL NEVER PERISH. NO ONE CAN SNATCH THEM AWAY FROM ME.

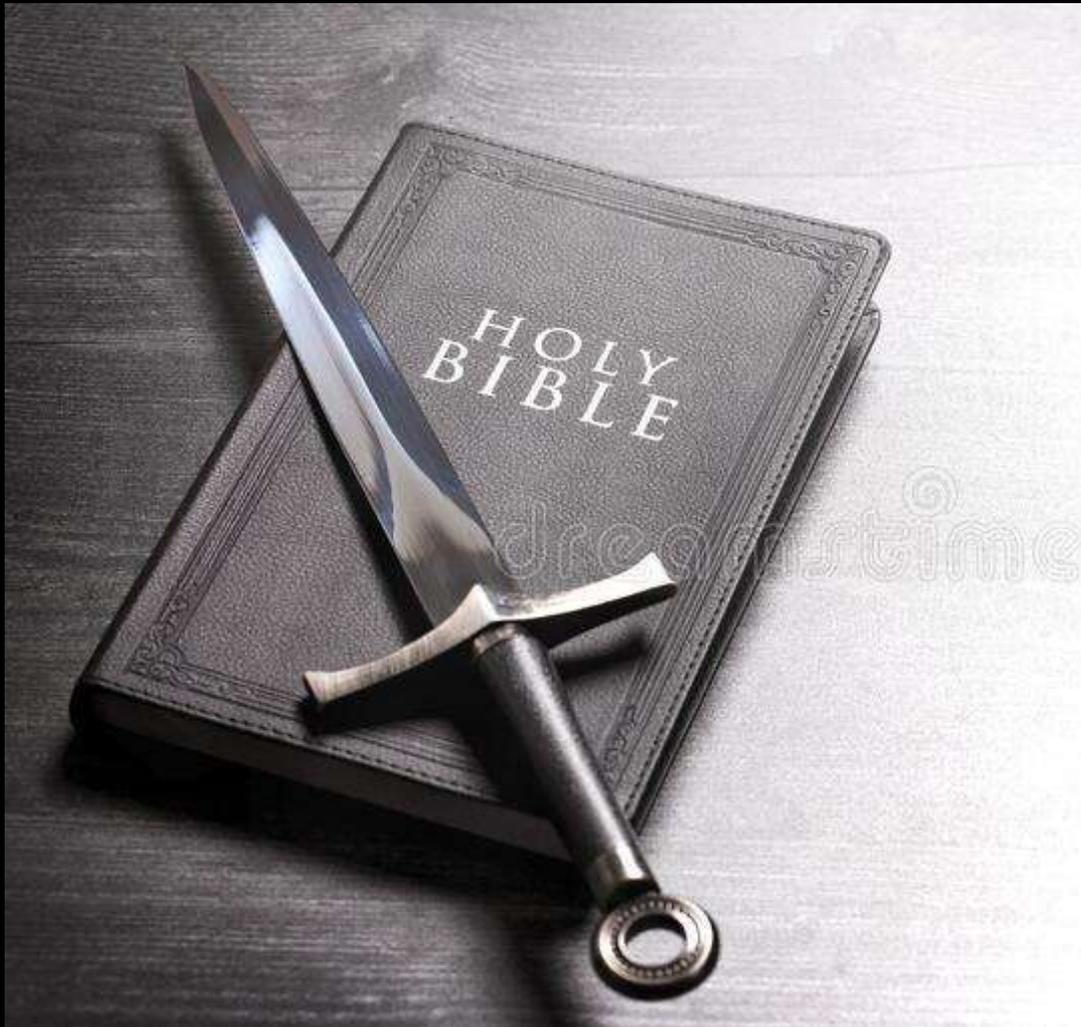
Present: The Security of Salvation

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **according to His abundant mercy** has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

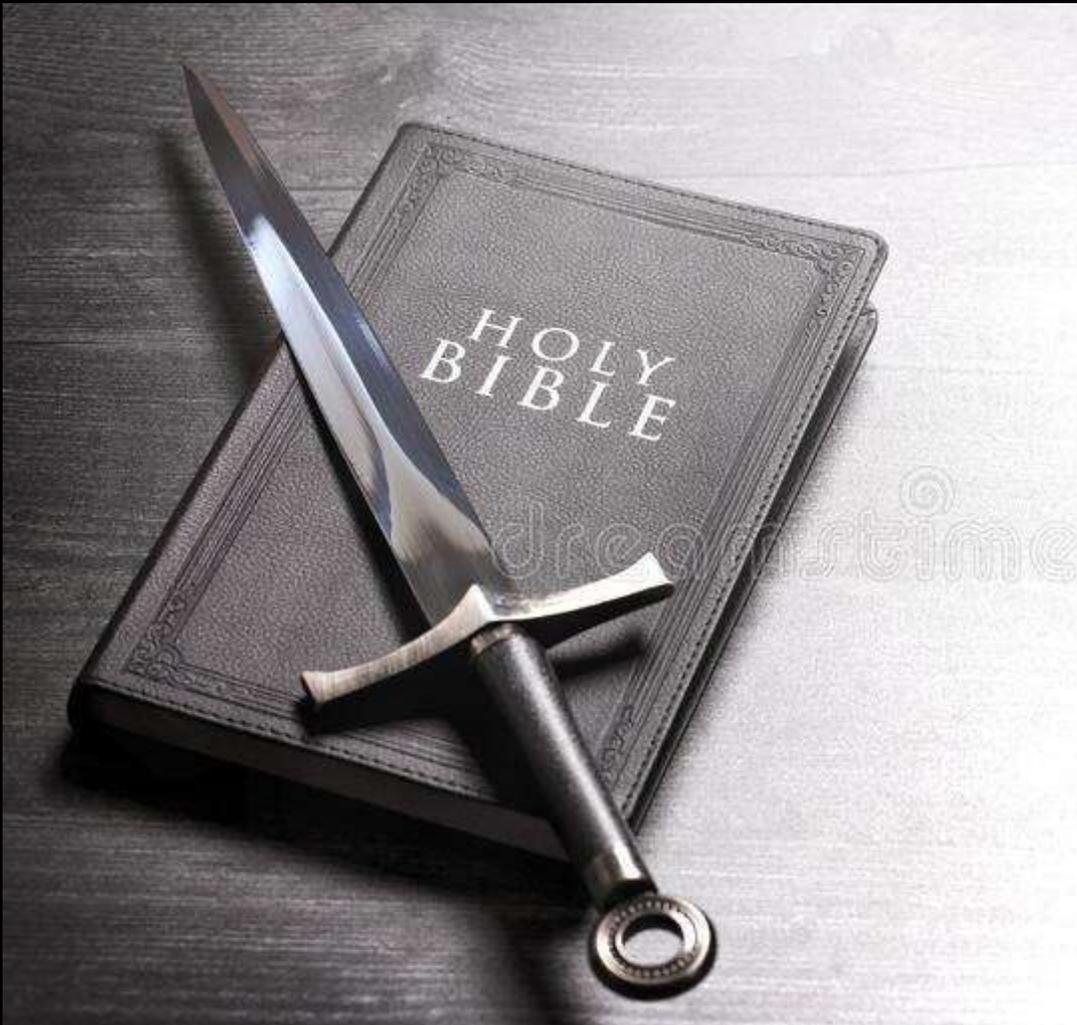
Future:
The
Consum-
mation of
Salvation

B. THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD



After mentioning about the armor **which are for defense** (belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes fitted with the gospel of Christ, shield of faith, helmet of salvation), Paul now writes about **the offense to the evil one** (the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God).

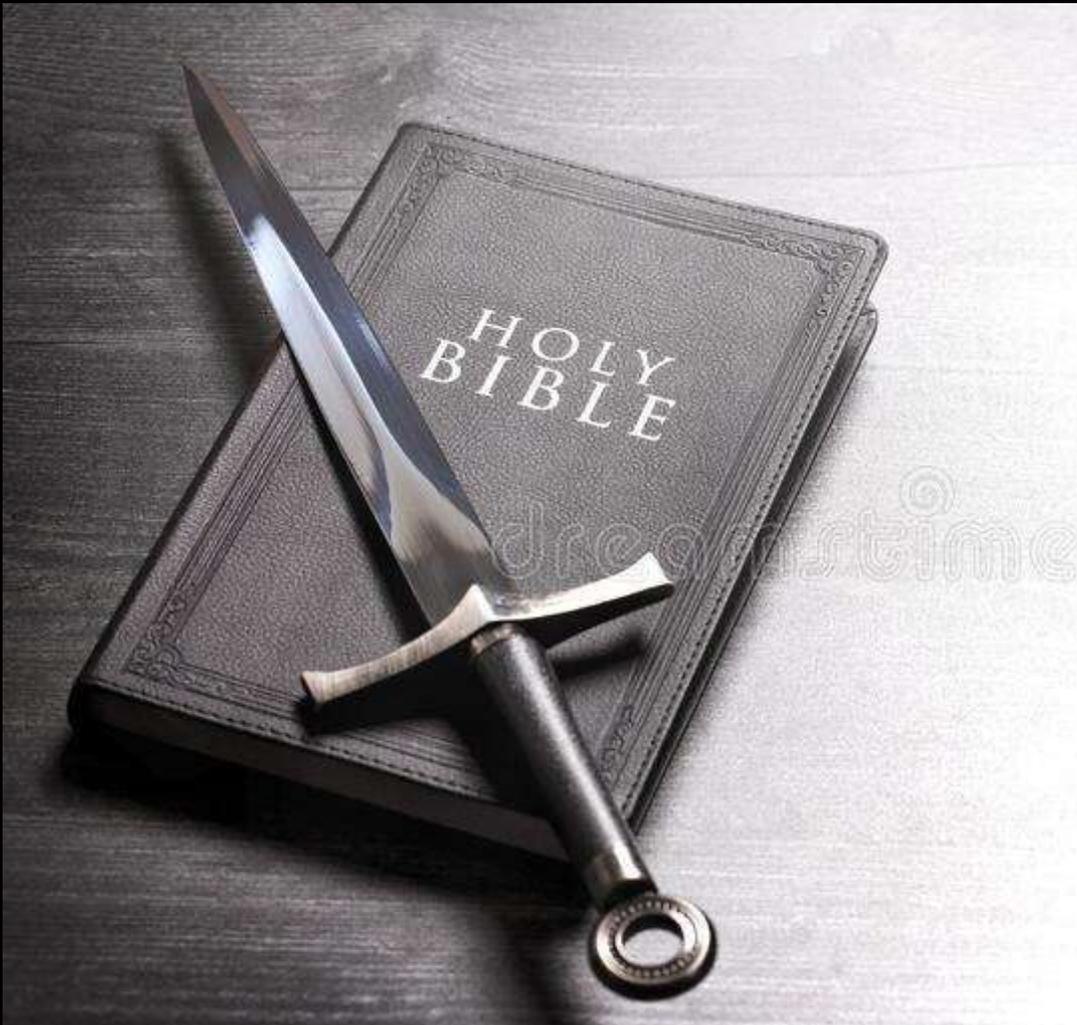
HOW DO WE WIELD THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD?



I. STUDY THE WORD OF GOD

- ❖ But he answered, “It is written...” (Matt. 4:4)
- ❖ Again it is written... (Matt. 4:6)
- ❖ For it is written... (Matt. 4:7)

HOW DO WE WIELD THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD?



Dr. Harry Ironside, a man of little formal education but great power, read the Bible fourteen times by the age of fourteen.

You cannot use the Word if you don't study and know it.

SCHEME OF THE DEVIL: TO KEEP YOU AWAY FROM THE WORD OF GOD.

- You cannot use the Sword of the Spirit if you spend much time before Television than before God's Word.
- You cannot use the Sword of the Spirit if you spend much time before mobile phone than before God's Word.
- You cannot use the Sword of the Spirit if you spend much time before social media than before God's Word.
- You cannot use the Sword of the Spirit if you spend much time before computer than before God's Word.
- You cannot use the Sword of the Spirit if you spend much time with people than with God's Word.

HOW DO WE WIELD THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD?

2. RIGHTLY INTERPRET THE WORD OF GOD

- ❖ **Matthew 4:5-6**, Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” (Psalm 91:11-12)
- ❖ **Matthew 4:7**, Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.” (Deuteronomy 6:16)

SCHEME OF THE DEVIL: DISTORT THE MEANING OF THE WORD OF GOD.

The devil quotes: Matthew 7:7, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

You quote: 1 John 5:14, And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

SCHEME OF THE DEVIL: DISTORT THE MEANING OF THE WORD OF GOD.

The devil quotes: Psalm 91:-10, Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

You quote: Job 2:9-10, Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.” But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

SCHEME OF THE DEVIL: DISTORT THE MEANING OF THE WORD OF GOD.

The devil quotes: Deuteronomy 8:18, You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

You quote: I Timothy 6:6-9, But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

HOW DO WE WIELD THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD?

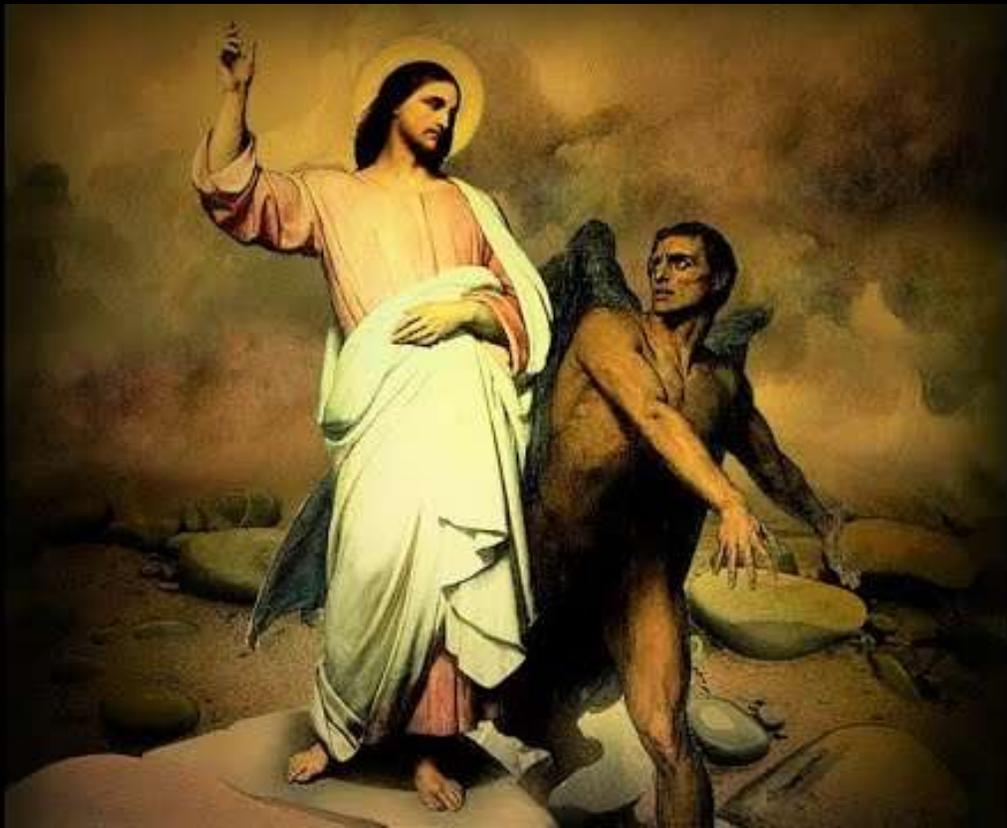
3. MEMORIZE AND WIELD THE WORD OF GOD

- ❖ But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”
(Deuteronomy 8:3)
- ❖ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.” (Deuteronomy 6:16)
- ❖ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”
(Deuteronomy 6:13)

HOW DO WE WIELD THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD?

James Boice Montgomery: While *logos* embraces nearly everything, *rhēma* has a slighter weight. It really means “a saying,” in this case, a particular, specific portion of God’s written revelation. John 3:16 is a *rhēma*. Romans 3:23 is a *rhēma*, and so on for all the other specific portions of the written “Word of God.” It is important to see this, as I said, because according to Paul’s teaching we are to overcome Satan by the particular words or portions of Scripture.

Kent Hughes: if Christ, the Divine Man, in battling Satan while here on earth did so with the sword of the Word, how much more do we frail men and women need to wield that same sword if we are to be victorious?



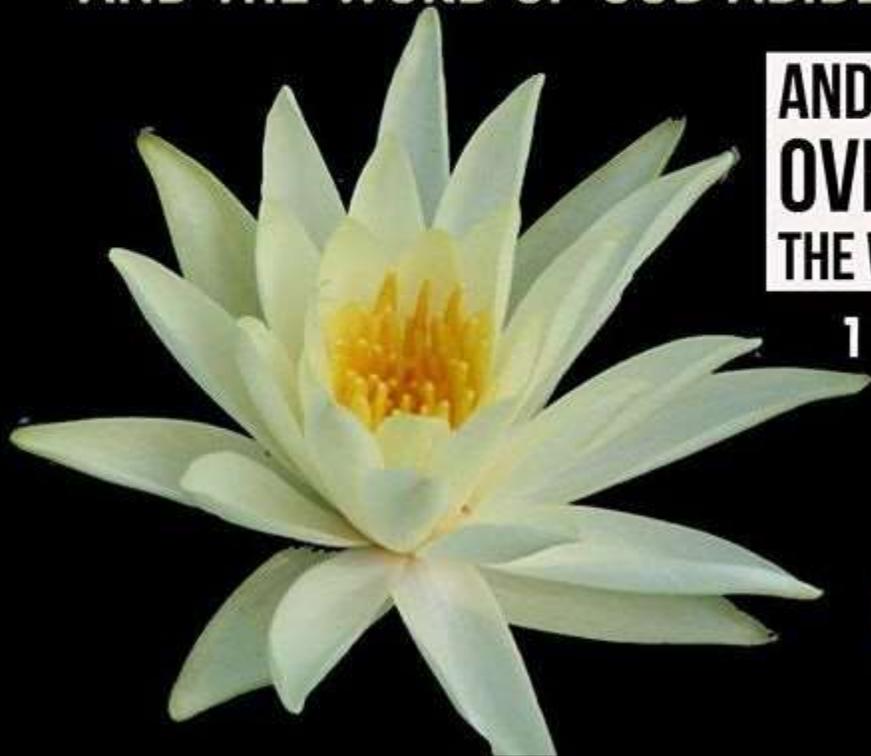


Eve was defeated because she did not take up the Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God) against the schemes of the devil.

**I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU, FATHERS,
BECAUSE YOU HAVE KNOWN HIM
WHO IS FROM THE BEGINNING.
I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU, YOUNG MEN,
BECAUSE YOU ARE STRONG,
AND THE WORD OF GOD ABIDES IN YOU,**

**AND YOU HAVE
OVERCOME
THE WICKED ONE**

1 JOHN 2:14



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The PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



John Bunyan

The Pilgrim's Progress is a 1678 Christian allegory written by John Bunyan. The story is about how a Christian flees from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City.

Christian drew his sword, for he saw it was time to rouse himself to action. Apollyon quickly responded by throwing darts as thick as hail, and even with all the skill he could muster Christian could not deflect them all. Apollyon inflicted wounds to his head, hand, and foot. Christian retreated a little, and Apollyon pressed more forcefully. Yet Christian took courage and resisted as fearlessly as he could. This agonizing combat lasted for more than half a day, until Christian was almost exhausted. For you should know that because of Christian's wounds, he inevitably grew weaker and weaker.

Then Apollyon spotted his opportunity. He began to press closer to Christian, wrestled with him, and threw him hard to the ground. Christian's sword flew out of his hand. Apollyon's teeth showed in a sneer. "I am sure of you now." The monster drew closer, intending to inflict a mortal wound. Christian began to despair for his life. But, as God would have it, while Apollyon prepared to make his final blow to destroy this good man, Christian nimbly reached out his hand and gripped his sword. He cried out, "Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise" (Micah 7:8).



With that Christian gave Apollyon a deadly thrust. The monster drew back, like someone who had received a fatal wound. Christian recognized the opportunity and moved in on him again, saying, “But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us” (Rom. 8:37). Apollyon spread his dragon wings and quickly took to the air and flew away, until Christian no longer saw him.