

August, 2008

Workshop 2

“The Power of the Word of God”

Presented by Pastor/Director Glenn Wright

Introduction:

From the beginning of this ministry we knew that the Word of God is sacred, that it is infallible and inerrant, that it brings new life — therefore we used only the Word of God with His Holy Spirit to build this ministry.

A Firm Foundation was needed, and that is Jesus Christ and the Word.

I. THE BATTLE FOR THE MIND / SOUL

- ROMANS 8:6-7 ASV —
*“For the mind of the flesh is death;
but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace:
because the mind of the flesh is enmity against God;
for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be: ..”*
- GALATIANS 5:16-18 NIV —
*“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.
For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit,
and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature.
They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.”*
- EPHESIANS 6:12 KJV —
*“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities,
against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world,
against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*
- 2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5 KJV —
*“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal,
but mighty [powerful] through God to the pulling down of strong holds;
Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself
against the knowledge of God,
and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; ...”*

II. WHAT ARE OUR WEAPONS FOR THIS BATTLE?

A. SEVEN WEAPONS

1. The Word of God – Your Sword ~ the Full Armor of God

HEBREWS 4:12 –

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.

(Knowledge of the Word and Power of the Word)

2. Scripture Memorization – Utilizing the Word of God, His promises, His precepts, His commandments.

3. Holy Spirit – Daily surrender to Him. The power in our walk

4. Prayer – The enemy will try to disrupt.

5. Praise and Worship – The enemy flees.

6. Meditate on His Word – Use it in your prayer life.

7. Christian Fellowship – In meetings – in church – in Bible studies.

B. HOW THE WORD IS USED TO DEFEAT SATAN

Jesus used the Word of God to defeat Satan and so can we.

MATTHEW 4:3-11 NKJV

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

⁴But 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.'"

⁵Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,

⁶and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down.

For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

⁷Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"

⁸Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

⁹And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" ¹¹Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

As with Jesus we can defeat the enemy with the power of the word.

C. HOW IMPORTANT IS GOD'S WORD TO HIM?

1. **PSALM 138:2c NKJV —**
For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

2. **Psalms 119 shows us how important the Word is to the Lord and to us.**
(With exception of 2 or 3 verses, His word is referred to in 152 verses — the longest chapter in the Bible.)

3. **2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 NKJV —** *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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

He says ALL Scripture is what we need to teach.

D. WHEN WE STUDY THE WORD, WHAT DOES IT DO FOR US?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

E. MEDITATE IN THE WORD.

PSALMS 1:1-3 —

Blessed is the man

Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,

Nor stands in the path of sinners,

Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

²But his delight is in the law of the LORD,

And in His law he meditates day and night.

³He shall be like a tree

Planted by the rivers of water,

That brings forth its fruit in its season,

Whose leaf also shall not wither;

And whatever he does shall prosper.

F. POWER FROM THE WORD

HEBREWS 4:12-13 —

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.

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.

The Holy Spirit — the sword, the word of God — slices deep down in our heart to draw out for us to see what may be unconfessed sin, or to show us what we must change (such as judging others) so we can repent and change. He probes the deepest recesses of our heart to examine the thoughts and intents of our hearts.

As you teach the Word and encourage your students to read and study the Word, they also will be probed by the Holy Spirit.

- **Teach the Word!**
- **Teach Sound Doctrine!**
- **Bear Much Fruit!**

III. JESUS HEALS!

- A. The Holy Spirit is the **power** from *within* our *renewed* hearts and minds that changes our behavior, with our willingness and obedience and desire to be healed.
1. God **does not** desire our “recovery” — God **does desire restoration** — from addiction and compulsive/obsessive behavior (the power of our flesh).
 2. God **does** desire that we *become new* creatures, from the *inside out*.
- B. **RESTORATION THROUGH JESUS! — More than “recovery”**

LUKE 4:18-19 NKJV — Jesus said:

*“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;...”*

C. REGENERATION BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD

1. **JOHN 3:3, NKJV —**
*Jesus answered and said to [Nicodemus],
“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again,
he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ...*
2. **JOHN 3:5-8 NKJV —**
*Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you,
unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’
⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it,
but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes.
So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*
3. **We need *spiritual rebirth* because:**
1 CORINTHIANS 2:14, 16 NKJV —
*“...the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ...
For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?”*

But we have the mind of Christ.

4. We must separate ourselves from the worldly, devil manipulated philosophies:

1 JOHN 2:15-17 NKJV –

“Do not love the world or the things in the world.

If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world.

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

IV. WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL ANSWER TO LIFE-DOMINATING / HABITUAL SIN?

A. DIE TO SELF – ACTION!

LUKE 9:23-26 NIV – *Then [Jesus] said to them all:*

“If anyone would come after Me,

he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

²⁴For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will save it. ²⁵What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?”

B. FAITH IN JESUS – ACTION!

PHILIPPIANS 4:13 NKJV – *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

C. PUT OFF the old, sinful nature – ACTION!

GALATIANS 5:19-21 NIV –

¹⁹The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

D. PUT ON the righteousness of Christ – ACTION!

GALATIANS 5:22-24 NIV –

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

The Most Excellent Way ~ Christian Solution For Addictions: Jesus!

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passion and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

E. OBEDIENCE to God's Word — ACTION!

EPHESIANS 4:22-24 NIV —

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

*and to put on the new self, **created to be like God** in true righteousness and holiness."*

- **Attitudes** — we need to have the attitudes of Jesus, which is to have the mind of Christ.
- **Act with conviction.**
- **Just do it** because it is The Most Excellent Way.

V. APPLYING THE WORD OF GOD TO YOUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

A. ABIDE IN HIS WORD

JOHN 8:31-32 NKJV —

"Then Jesus said to those ... who believed Him,

'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'"

B. GROW SPIRITUALLY

- Put on the full armor of God everyday!
- We are at war and we are in the middle of the battlefield — between God and the devil.
- Flee from temptation and the devil will flee from you (David and Bethsheba).

C. SERMON ON THE MOUNT — Matthew Chapters 5-7

Jesus' moral and ethical teachings stand in stark contrast to man's and the world's idea of today's popular idea of "character defects."

In conclusion, what do we need to do?

- Study the word!
- Meditate on His Word!
- Memorize the Word — Teach sound doctrine!
- Use the Word!
- Teach the Word!

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 NKJV— *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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

* * *

Jesus said:

“I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

JOHN 14:6A NKJV

And remember: JESUS HEALS!

* * *

Paul’s Prayer for All of Us:

“For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you,
and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will
in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
¹⁰that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him,
being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
¹¹strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power,
for all patience and longsuffering with joy;
¹²giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers
of the inheritance of the saints in the light.
¹³He has delivered us from the power of darkness and
conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
¹⁴in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

COLOSSIANS 1:9-14 NKJV