

Classic Christian Writings:

In I Timothy 6:12 we are commanded to fight the good fight of faith, and this shows us that just as soon as we believe what God says, an enemy will rise up against us, because we do not fight anybody except enemies. Of course, this enemy is Satan, but he comes in so many ways that we do not always know that it is Satan. The Bible says he will sometimes make himself appear as an angel of light in his efforts to deceive us and get us to accept his lies.

But we must never accept or believe anything that does not fully and entirely agree with God's Word. At once the fight begins, and we must not stop until we drive the enemy back. God has promised that He will always cause us to triumph in Christ, but we have to do the fighting. We can draw all the strength we need from God, who says He is a present help in every time of need.

Another verse in the Bible (2 Tim. 2:3) tells us to be soldiers and a soldier never goes out to fight without taking an instrument to use to fight with. God is good and considerate and He has given us a weapon to fight with and tells us it is the Word of God and that it is as quick and powerful as a two-edged sword, and yet sharper than any sword. God has given us a weapon that will always win the victory if we will always be good soldiers and never fail to use this mighty weapon.

Even Christ, the Almighty One, used this sharp, two-edged sword, the Word of God, when Satan tempted Him in the wilderness. To every temptation of Satan He answered, "It is written..." and gave him some of God's Word. The sword-power in the Word so cut Satan that he left Christ and went away. Christ is our example in all things, and He wants us to use the sword, the Word of God, against Satan every time he attacks us, until we make him leave us as he left Christ.

Christ's first sermon was "Believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). But just as soon as we do believe some part of the gospel, Satan says, "Now be careful—you need to see or feel or have some proof about what you are believing."

The sword to use here is, "Satan, God says it is wicked and adulterous to seek a sign (Matt. 12:39; 16:4), and I will not make myself wicked and adulterous in the eyes of my blessed God, but will honor and please Him by believing His Word. He will never fail to keep His Word and be true to it."

If you have confessed some sin and believe God forgives it and puts it away and Satan keeps reminding you of it and telling you that you can not get your prayers answered now because of that sin, tell Satan that God says if we confess and forsake sins, that "all manner" of sins shall be forgiven and that God says He will blot them out of His book of remembrance, and that He will wash us in the blood of Jesus and make us whiter than the snow. Tell him that the Bible says faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it (Matt. 12:31; Jer. 31:34; Isa. 1:18; 1 Thess. 5:24).

We ask God for strength and Satan says, "Now you did not get strength at all. You feel even weaker than before you asked for strength." The sword to use here is, "Satan, God says His strength is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor. 12:9), and God is letting me feel and seem weak so that I can have His perfect strength. My God never fails to keep every promise He ever makes."

Know The Word

It is wonderful how there is something in the Bible that will meet everything that Satan can bring up to try to make us doubt or waver or disbelieve God, and that is why God commands us to let the Word dwell in us richly (Col. 3:16). Then no matter what way Satan tries to make us doubt or waver, we will have, in our memories, the passage of God's Word that is the sharp sword that will cut the doubt Satan brings to us and compel it to leave us. It will also compel Satan to leave us as the Word Jesus repeated to Satan made Satan leave Jesus.

The trouble with us is we do not know the Word as well as we need to know it. Also, instead of following Christ's example to repeat the Word to Satan and cut him by this sword of God until he leaves us, we listen to what Satan says. God tells us he always lies (John 8:44). We also notice how things look and seem, instead of obeying God. He tells us to do as Abraham did—refuse to see, think of or consider anything at all except what God says (Rom. 4:16-21). Use God's all-powerful sword of the Word against all that tries to shake our faith.

A good soldier does not use his sword just once and stop. If he is a good soldier he will never stop using the

sword until the enemy is gone. God tells us to be good soldiers and that would cause us to keep striking Satan with some part of the powerful sword, the Word of God, until he is gone from us. God tells us if we resist Satan, he will flee — leave us (James 4:7).

God tells us we can also use the blood of Christ with the Word. He tells us in Revelation 12:11 that those who used the blood and the Word did overcome Satan. When God has given us two such powerful, never-failing weapons to use, what does He think of us when we neglect to always use them? Because we fail to use them, we let Satan harm us.

God tells us to never give any place at all to Satan (Eph. 4:27). It is only Satan that ever causes any one to doubt or waver. God tells us Satan is the father of lies and that whenever Satan speaks he tells a lie. Often when Satan whispers something to me, I say to him — “Satan, God says whenever you speak you tell a lie. Therefore I know that just the opposite of what you say is the truth and what you say is a lie.”

Adam and Eve never disbelieved until Satan got them to disbelieve. We would never disbelieve God if it were not for Satan. So let us keep so full of the Word of God that no matter what Satan tells us, we can have the Word of God that contradicts what he says ready to repeat to him. The two sharp sword edges of the all-powerful Word of God will never fail to enable us to be good soldiers. We can fight the good fight of faith, and we shall never fail to win and keep the victory faith always brings.