

SERMON NOTES - The 3 Parts of Man #4 - "The Sword of the Spirit"

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

Heb 4:12 NKJV - "12 For the **word** of God is **living** (*zaō*) and **powerful** (*energēs*), 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** (*enthumesis*) and **intent**s of the **heart**."

word ... **living** (*zaō*) - Jn 6:63 NKJV - "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.

The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." 1Co 15:50 NKJV - "50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption."

powerful (*energēs*) - Phl 2:13 NKJV - "13 for it is God who works (*energeō*) in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

sharper - hard hearts, & a living sacrifice

soul and **spirit**, and of **joints** and **marrow** - 1 Thess 5:23

discerner - divides and displays... and then we need to respond and act.

thoughts (*enthumesis* = "a cogitation, an inward reasoning" (generally, evil surmising or supposition), is formed from *en*, "in," and *thumos*, "strong feeling, passion") - 2Co 10:3-5 NKJV - "3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"

intents - (*will/purpose*)

heart -

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Mat 13:18-23 NKJV - "18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not **understand** it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. 20 "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with **joy**; 21 "yet he has **no root** in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. 22 "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches **choke** the word, and he becomes unfruitful. 23 "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed **bears fruit** and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.""

HARD HEARTEDNESS IS THE PROBLEM

Mat 13:13-15 NKJV - "13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'

Hebrews 3:7- 4:12

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "**Today, if you will hear His voice,**

8 **Do not harden your hearts** as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,

15 while it is said: "**Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts** as in the

rebellion." 4:2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but **the word** which they heard did not profit them, not being **mixed with faith** in those who heard it.

7 again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "**Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.**"

9 There remains therefore a **rest** for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His **rest** has himself also **ceased from his works** as God did from His."

REPENTANCE IS THE SOLUTION - BREAKING UP A HARD HEART

The SWORD of the Spirit - the word of God - Heb 4:12

Hos 10:12 NKJV - "12 Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you."

2Co 7:7-11 NKJV - "7 and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was comforted in you, when he told us of your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more. 8 For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. 9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter."

Psa 51:1-4, 7-12, 17 NKJV - "1 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. 4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight--That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge. ... 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me hear **joy** and **gladness**, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. 9 Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a **steadfast spirit** within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the **joy** of **Your salvation**, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. ...17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, **A broken and a contrite heart**--These, O God, You will not despise."

OTHER VERSES:

Jas 2:17, 19, 26 NKJV - "17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble! ... 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.