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The Sword of the Lord.

Dear Friend,

Today I would like to talk to you about the sword of the Lord. Before we progress very far in our thinking let me say the sword we are about to discuss is not as the one mentioned in Ephesians 6, as "*the sword of the spirit,*" nor is it the one mentioned in Judges 7:18, as "*the sword of the Lord and the sword of Gideon.*" For both of these were to bring judgment physically and spiritually upon our enemies.

The sword that I am referencing is probably the same sword yet with a different use. You might think of it as a double edged sword being used two ways at once, with each edge having a purpose. One side being used against our enemies in the spirit that are outside of the body of Christ and the other side of the sword dividing within the body to bring forth His total healing process.

Let us examine for a moment the power that is in the word of God to act as a sword of division. This power is described in Hebrews.

For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things [are] naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.
Hebrews 4:12-13

This scripture gives us the understanding of what happens to us when we are born again. When we heard the word of God at our salvation experience, (*the word of reconciliation to God,*) this word was so powerful that it divided our very essence into spirit, soul and body. It then pierced the very intent of our heart. This is where our character actually changed and we became new creations in Christ.

There is also a sword of the Lord that brings a separation between even the closest of companions. This one is spoken of in Matthew and describes a division that can take place even in your own household as a result of your decision to follow Christ.

Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes [shall be] they of his own household.
Matthew 10:34-36

My question to you Friend is how far does this sword go? Does it stop only at the entrance of Christianity or does it follow you to the very grass roots of your walk with God even after you enter into the Kingdom?

Even after we enter into the kingdom there are still choices to be made concerning how much of God's glory we want to partake of. Do we want to stay the same or do we want as much of God as we can possibly get? Many are crying out in this hour for a renewal or revival of the pattern that Christ left with the First Church. As a result of this outcry for a revival of His presence and power, a "**dichotomy**"— (*a separation into two unusual contradictory parts or opinions*) is taking place.

Such as the statement found in Isaiah. As a result of the coming of the glory of the Lord two things happen at once, the darkness gets darker and the light gets brighter.

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
Isaiah 60:1-3

Isaiah's prophecy foretold of the "*gross darkness.*" This does not necessarily depict more sinning as in quantity but rather in substance, meaning more perverse in nature or out of the ordinary.

There is a prophecy by Jesus foretelling of the days we are living in. **And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**
Matthew 24:12

This seems to suggest that Isaiah's prophecy of the coming gross darkness somehow bled over into the church of Jesus Christ. As a result of it, the love of many Christians went from a once red hot love affair to a state of being cold. Like wax that cooled to a hardened state it molds to the image of the thing that is cooling it off. This seems to be a final ditch effort of satan to destroy the image of the church in the earth in the last days.

The good news is those who choose to will shine brighter in these days than ever before. Isaiah said the Lord shall rise upon thee and His glory shall be seen upon thee and the gentiles (the unsaved) shall come to the light and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Exciting times are ahead for those choosing to stay focused on the prize which is Christ. Those falling and running slower may begin to fall faster and run even slower and more perverse than ever before. God is certainly not in their falling, nor the speed of their track record but He is in the distinction that is taking place. Even this is for their future benefit that they might once again begin to burn with the brightness of God.

The problem is this Friend, as intercessors for these people the tactics we used in the past to help these self choosing slow runners will no longer be effective.

The choices they are making cause it to be seven times harder for us to help them catch up and stay up with the rest of the body. Jesus said in **Luke 11:24-26, When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth [it] swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh [to him] seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last [state] of that man is worse than the first.** Those that have at times walked free from the flesh only to choose to return may find themselves running at an

even slower pace than ever before. Our mental and/or physical help apart from the Holy Spirit will no longer work for them. The battle has changed course and strength. Thus we must choose temporarily for their sakes to go on without them.

There may be those who would question, did not Jesus say that a good shepherd would leave the ninety nine sheep and would go and search for the one lost sheep that went astray? Let's examine this scripture just for a moment.

In the context of Jesus' teaching on taking the time to find sheep that went astray both in Matthew 18:12 and in Luke 15, both of these are talking about people that are not yet in the Kingdom. The Spirit of the Lord is on a search and rescue mission to bring them home. They are called sheep because they have always been predestined in Christ to come back to the Father.

There is a very strong and valid teaching in Luke 15 of how God treats His prodigal sons. God has a method of returning His sons and daughters who have gone astray. God has a different plan for retrieving His lost sons than He does for those not yet in His kingdom. It is with no less intent of their welfare as for the sinner.

The prodigal son often elects to go to the full exposure of their need before realizing how desperate they are without the covering of the Father. This is not the choice of the Father but rather the choice of a slow or dormant running son.

For you and I not to realize the self chosen season of a person's life and try to do anything outside of His mind for them will not only impede their return but slow you down in your present walk with God and in your pursuit of God and what is best for your life.

The argument is not that there is no more time for these people, no more out reached hands of love and compassion but rather it can no longer be anything less than the Holy Spirit's leadership. Endless hours of counseling, good intentions and human effort can not help them and will hinder you. There was a recent prophecy that came to The Family Prayer Center in Tulsa and I have included an excerpt as an example to what I am saying, "the fast are going to go faster and the slow are going to go slower. Can you picture that? Here are two groups, right now they are almost touching. If the fast go faster and the slow go slower there is going to become a greater and greater gulf between the two groups. Friend, which group are you going to be in?"

I am saying unless you go into the fullness of your calling which is first Christ being formed in you then you can not and will not be able to help them in their present condition.

The anointing to minister to the prodigals is different than the anointing to minister to little lambs. They require the exact power and leadership of the Holy Spirit. The demonic problems they have inherited qualify many of them as in the words of Jesus, "*you will take up serpents and they will not harm you.*" I am not implying that these are serpents, but rather that we must defeat serpents for their recovery.

Lambs are harmless in essence. Although they may still have the smell of the world on them they do not bite nor are they filled with poisonous venom.

God loves the prodigal every bit as much as He loves the lambs. But the work to recover them requires an exact precision and power that only the Holy Spirit can give through His leadership.

So what is the spiritual made practical? How does this apply? A friend and teacher I know once said the Lord told him, “*let Me choose your friends.*” In essence, even the people you spend time with must be ordered of the Lord.

The long telephone calls or personal encounters trying to talk this group into something they presently do not want are coming to a close. Better yet, the same time should be spent in a place of communion with the one who can really eventually change them, this is Jesus. Out of that place you will begin to know when to call them or when not to.

Friend, here are certain questions to ask your self when ministering to these:

- 1) Have you become their helper or their enabler?
- 2) Do they lack the knowledge from the word that you can give them? **or**
- 3) Do they know yet simply will not do what they know?
(*You can not put will power in them. Only the Holy Spirit can.*)
- 4) Do they go to the same church or type of message church where you are being fed?
- 5) Why then is it necessary for you to try to feed them again what you have both already eaten together?
- 6) What is the most powerful thing I can possibly do to help these people?

We must go on in order to help them. Both their present state and ours require that only the Lord help them. We must go as far into Him as we can for them and for us.

This is not a supposed separation against the benefit of those that are opposing themselves. Rather it is the exact opposite, bringing greater opportunity to recover them from their temporary bondage. It is just that our old tactics of inspirational stories, Hallmark cards or baked cakes are no longer by themselves able to recover these. They must be recovered by the power of the Holy Spirit. We must not be caught spending our time in these areas that are no longer empowered by the Holy Spirit.

So what is this particular sword of the Lord? It is both the written and prophetic word. Its purpose of division is in two parts. First, it gives clarity of direction for those choosing all of God so that valuable time is not lost. Secondly, it enables us who are strong to deal with great levels of compassion and intercession for those running behind.

We all know and love people who have once walked with the Lord, who are now away from God, bound once again by the power of sin. Friend, as intercessors for these I would encourage you in this season of your life to spend more personal time with the Lord to really get to know Him like never before. This will prove to be most profitable for both you and those God will recover through you.

Love,
Pastor Bronc