

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

Chapter 43

Ephesians 6:17b

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

THE last piece of the soldier's armament, is one purposed not only to defend the Christian, but also to advance the kingdom. The sword, or versions of it, have been used for millennia to lead armies into battle. This is because it would be impossible to overcome any enemy, if all that was possessed by any soldier was only defensive in nature. The importance of the *sword of the Spirit*, like all else the apostle has encouraged the Ephesians to put on, has its source in God. It is this reality which provides such power to be at the Christian's disposal. Because God's Word is of God, then it carries with it the divine authority and power of the Lord. Because God is Its source, then It shall accomplish all of God's purposes¹ that it should. The means by which we have re-

ceived the word of God, which Paul likens to also the *sword of the Spirit*, is through the Holy Spirit inspiring Holy men of God, to speak, as God's Spirit inspires them to..

II Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

The means by which the world received the Word of God, was neither through the will, desire, and/or imagination of any man. Yet, this is exactly how all false religions have created their deities, and the means to worship them. So that where all worldly religion is based upon human, and/or devilish imagination, the prophetic words of Scripture, have a divine and living God² as their source. Sinners also have consistently proven themselves, through the centuries, prone to spiritual error, and no more so, than through the

1 Isa. 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2 Dan. 6:26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

Jer. 10:10 But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

Acts 14:15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

I Tim. 4:10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

Heb. 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

wild imagination concerning, Who God is, and how He is to be worshiped.³ For this reason, the Lord chose to first impart the Holy Spirit, and then inspire holy men through the Spirit, to reveal both His Word and will to man. For only then, could an invisible God,⁴ and the Creator of all things, be properly understand, believed in, and ultimately submitted to.

II Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

(Barnes' Notes on the Bible, II Pet. 1:21) *For the prophecy came not in old time*—Margin, or, “at any.” The Greek word (ποτέ *pote*) (po-TEH) will bear either construction. It would be true in either sense, but the reference is particularly to the recorded prophecies in the Old Testament. What was true of them, however, is true of all prophecy, that it is not by the will of man. ...

By the will of man—It was not of human origin; not discovered by the human mind. The word “will,” here seems to be used in the sense of “prompting” or “suggestion;” men did not speak by their own suggestion, but as truth was brought to them by God.

But holy men of God—Pious men commissioned by God, or employed by him as his messengers to mankind.

Spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost—Compare 2 Timothy 3:16.⁵ The Greek phrase here (ὑπὸ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου φερόμενος) (*hupo Pneumatōs Hagiou pheromenos*) (hoo-POH PNEH-mah-tohs hah-GEE-oo pheh-ROH-meh-nohs) means “borne along, moved, influenced” by the Holy Ghost. The idea is, that in what they spake they were “carried along” by an influence from above. They moved in the case only as they were moved; they spake only as the influence of the Holy Ghost was upon them. They were no more self-moved than a vessel at sea is that is impelled by the wind; and as the progress made by the vessel is to be measured by the impulse bearing upon it, so the statements made by the prophets are to be traced to the impulse which bore upon their minds. (END QUOTE)

It has often been claimed by critics of the truth, that the Bible, God's Word, has its source in man. This falsity is directly refuted by scripture. For it was not by the *will of man*, in any form, any way, or through any imagination of the heart, that the biblical cannon has been given to us.

3 John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
I Sam. 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.
Ps. 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.
Deut. 10:12 And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,
Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
I Cor. 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
Col. 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.
4 Col. 1:15–16 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: ¹⁶For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
I Tim. 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.
John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.
I John 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.
5 II Tim. 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

This supernatural act, is of God, and has as its sole source, the Lord Himself.

The Greek word for *moved* is #5342 *pheró*. (FER-oh) The Topical Lexicon states concerning the word, “Strong’s Greek 5342 covers the ideas of carrying, bringing, leading, bearing up, and producing. Its sixty-six appearances span tangible actions—moving objects or people—and intangible realities—prophecy, divine power, and spiritual fruit.

Bearing Physical Objects

- People and goods: the paralytic “carried” by four (Mark 2:3; Luke 5:18);⁶ the sick “were bringing” to the apostles (Acts 5:16)⁷; Simon of Cyrene compelled to “carry” the cross (Luke 23:26)⁸.
- Offerings: Barnabas “brought the money” (Acts 4:37)⁹; the priest at Lystra “brought oxen and garlands” (Acts 14:13)¹⁰.
- Messages or verdicts: John’s head “was brought on a platter” (Matthew 14:11;

Mark 6:28)¹¹; Roman accusers “brought no charge” against Paul (Acts 25:18)¹².

Bearing Spiritual Realities

- Prophecy: “Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21).
- Power: “Suddenly a sound like a mighty rushing wind came from heaven” (Acts 2:2)¹³.

Revelation and power originate with God, not human will.” (END QUOTE)

It is undoubtedly difficult for someone who has never received the Spirit, or been led and strongly influenced by It, to understand the force of the Spirit of God—whether it was upon someone, as in the Old Testament, (Mic. 3:8) *But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.*¹⁴ or in saints in the New Testament. As numerous commentaries have used

6 Mark 2:3 *And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.*

Luke 5:18 *And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.*

7 Acts 5:16 *There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.*

8 Luke 23:26 *And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.*

9 Acts 4:37 *Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.*

10 Acts 14:13 *Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.*

11 Matt. 14:11 *And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother.*

Mark 6:28 *And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother.*

12 Acts 25:18 *Against whom when the accusers stood up, they brought none accusation of such things as I supposed:*

13 Acts 2:2 *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*

14 Num. 11:25—the elders of Israel—*And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.*

Jdgs. 3:10—Othniel—*And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the Lord delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim.*

Jdgs. 6:34—Gideon—*But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.*

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

the analogy, the Spirit of God strongly influencing a man's life, is like a great wind upon the sea, which is able to move vessels, virtually at will, in the direction His mighty forces blow. Such both was, and still is, the power of the Holy Spirit upon those chosen by the Lord to reveal His will to man.¹⁵ Ultimately, *men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*. That is, men who held a great affection and love for God, He both directed, and even compelled, to reveal His will to the world. This supernatural spiritual force of the Holy Spirit in a man of God's heart, should not be minimized. (II Sam. 23:2) *The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue*. Jeremiah also

speaks of this reality. (Jer. 20:9) *Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay*.

(Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary, Jer. 20:9) *his word was*—or literally, “there was in my heart, as it were, a burning fire,” that is, the divine afflatus or impulse to speak was as ... (Job 32:18, 19; Ps 39:3)¹⁶.

weary with forbearing, and I could not—“I labored to contain myself, but I could not” (Ac 18:5; compare Jer 23:9; 1Co 9:16, 17)¹⁷. (END QUOTE)

Jdgs. 11:29—Jephthah—*Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon*.

Jdgs. 14:19—Samson—*And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house*.

I Sam. 11:6—Saul—*And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly*.

I Sam. 16:13—David—*Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah*.

II Chrn. 24:20—Zechariah—*And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you*.

Isa. 61:1—Isaiah—*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;*

15 Num. 11:25, 29 *And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease. ...*²⁹ *And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!*

Zech. 7:12 *Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts*.

Isa. 61:1 *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;*

Ezek. 2:3–4 *And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day. ⁴For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD*.

16 Job 32:18–19 *For I am full of matter, the spirit within me constraineth me. ¹⁹Behold, my belly is as wine which hath no vent; it is ready to burst like new bottles*.

Ps. 39:3 *My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue,*

17 Acts 18:5 *And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ*.

Jer. 23:9 *Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the Lord, and because of the words of his holiness*.

(*Pulpit Commentary*, Jer. 20:9) *And when I say, I will not make mention of him, etc., then it becometh* (i.e. I am conscious of a feeling) *in my heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones; and I weary myself to hold it in, but cannot.* The prophet has repeatedly been tempted to withdraw from the painful duty, but his other and higher self (comp. 'Old Self and New Self' in the 'Lyra Apostolica') overpowers these lower bayings for peace and quiet. The fire of the Divine wrath against sin burns so fiercely within him that he cannot help resuming his work. (END QUOTE)

(*Keil and Delitzsch Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament*, Jer. 20:9) The word of God dwells in the heart; but from there outwards it acts upon his whole organism, like a fire shut up in the hollow of his bones, burning the marrow of them (Job 21:24)¹⁸, so that he can no longer bear to keep silence. The [past perfect tense] "and I said," "and (then) it was," "and I became weary," are to be taken as preterites, [(PRET-uh-rits)] expressing events that have several times been repeated, and so the final result is spoken in the [imperfect tense, indicating an ongoing or continuing condition] I cannot. (END QUOTE)

The analogy of the Spirit blowing like a mighty wind, as was actually physically evidenced in the book of Acts, with the promised the Holy Spirit coming on Jesus' apostles,¹⁹ falls slightly short in the analogy we are dealing with—in that a natural wind, which blows upon the earth, and effects both the seas, and those who navigate them, will and does cease intermittently. The same cannot be said of the Spirit of God impressing divine will on a man's heart. For it is incessant,

constant, and unremitting, until God's Word is obeyed, and will not cease until the Lord's will is accomplished. Because the Holy Spirit works and practically lives within those chosen to reveal God's will, then there is no place for the true man of God to turn, in order to escape Its commands. Ultimately whatever controls the heart, controls the members of the body. This is classically seen when both good, and/or evil control a human heart.

The apostle Paul also certified to the Galatians, that the gospel he spoke, contained actually no origination in man, but was through direct revelation, given to him by Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:11–12 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

¹² *For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Here the apostle reveals both how and from Whom, he received the gospel. *I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.* (NIV)

(*Barnes' Notes on the Bible*, Gal. 1:12) The sense here is, that he was not indebted to people for his knowledge of the gospel, but had derived it entirely from the Saviour. (END QUOTE)

(*Bengel's Gnomon*, Gal. 1:12) This differs from *I was taught it* [ἐδιδάχθην]; for the one is accomplished without labour; the other is acquired by the labour of learning.—δι'

I Cor. 9:16-17 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! ¹⁷*For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.*

¹⁸ *Job 21:24 His breasts are full of milk, and his bones are moistened with marrow.*

¹⁹ *Acts 2:1–4 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

²*And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.* ³*And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.* ⁴*And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

ἀποκαλύψεως, *by revelation*) viz., *I received*.
(END QUOTE)

If it is ever doubted that God's Word, was in fact given by inspiration of God,²⁰ then a man only needs to believe it, which shall allow the truth to prove Itself as having its complete source in God. (I Thess. 2:13) *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.* This verse, reveals a very critical spiritual truth, that when the Word of God is genuinely received, believed, and acted upon, as the *word of God*, then it shall effectually, and with great regularity, work, and prove itself as divine in origin.

The Greek word for *worketh* is #1754 *energeó*. (en-erg-EH-o) It is defined as "To work, to be active, to be effective." "KJV: do, (be) effectual (fervent), be mighty in, shew forth self, work (effectually in)." Strong's defines the word, "From *energes*; to be active, efficient—do, (be) effectual (fervent), be mighty in, shew forth self, work (effectually in)."²¹

If any question, doubt, and/or contest the origin of the Word of God, then they need to only believe it, so that it may prove to them that God is its actual and divine source. Because the Lord will not let His

Word fall to the ground,²² then when believed, it shall prove Itself as consistent and faithful, as Its Sender. This is why no man who truly believes the truth, and has truly obeyed it in his life, doubts the Word's origination. Simply because God's Word, will effectually prove Itself to all who believe it, as absolutely divine in origin, through God, bringing exactly what He has revealed to come to pass. Because the scripture actually is the truth, then it shall undoubtedly prove itself, as having its origination in heaven, by the power that it exhibits to those who believe it on the earth. The true Christian also never needs to operate by, what so many have foolishly referred to as blind faith. Simply because no true faith in God can be operated, until God first speaks His Word and revelation to man. To walk by this, is not to walk blindly, but rather to walk by what one has heard and is assured, the Lord is speaking to him.²³

There is also the reason why the Word of God carries so much power both in heaven and on the earth, simply because its source and origin is God. Because also the believer's spiritual conflict is heavenly in nature, then the only suitable spiritual power mighty enough to resist devilish attack, and avoid spiritual deception, must come from God. And just as Jesus gave His disciples the power over unclean spirits,²⁴ so has Christ provided the same powerful Word of God to be utilized by

20 II Tim. 3:16–17 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

Jer. 36:2 *Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.*

Jer. 36:4 *Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.*

21 "Strong's Greek: 1754. ἐνεργέω (energeó) — To Work, to Be Active, to Be Effective." Bible Hub, biblehub.com/greek/1754.htm. Accessed 27 Aug. 2026.

22 I Sam. 3:19 *And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.*

23 Rom. 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

24 Matt. 10:1 *And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.*

saints today. To not possess the *sword of the spirit*, and not trust in its divine power, is to ultimately lack that piece of spiritual weaponry, that allows victory in every area of the Christian's life. And yet, this is also why, if even the most sincere Christian, does not truly trust, rely upon, and believe in, God's Word, then shall he practically forfeits ever truly experiencing the supernatural power of God, from being evidenced in his life, even if he is a child of God. And just as a soldier could potentially, enter into battle without his sword, and have not proper defense against his enemy, so can a child of God, neither truly believe in, nor trust in the *sword of the spirit*, which is critical for spiritual warfare.

One of the greatest examples of someone who possessed true faith in the power of God's Word, is recorded in Matthew chapter eight, concerning the Roman centurion, who sought Jesus' mighty power to heal his servant.

Matthew 8:5-11 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,

⁶ And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

⁷ And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

⁸ The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

⁹ For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come,

Mark 6:7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

Luke 9:1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

25 Acts 10:1-2 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, ²A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

26 Luke 7:2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

¹⁰ When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

¹¹ And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

This centurion, who was also a very pious and religiously devout man,²⁵ held a position of real authority, being a commander of what was at the time the greatest and most powerful military power in the world. And yet, he spiritually knew, that all true power, resides in God. What is also significant in this record is the natural compassion and love, the centurion possessed, towards one, his loyal and trusted servant. This reveals that those who possess true faith in God, will always possess a softness and tenderness of heart towards others, regardless of their perceived rank, either higher, or lower, in this world. Thus, at the heart of all who possess genuine faith in the Son of God, is an equal amount of compassion towards others. This is practically evidenced in the centurion pursuing Jesus and seeking His divine power to be employed, when his servant could do nothing, through his own power, other than lie on his bed, anticipating death.²⁶ Revealing also, that genuine faith in God, will act, and exert itself, in the interest of others, even with a cost of energy and effort, of self. Practically you also will never observe a non-generous man, or non-caring person, who has ever possessed significant

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

faith in God. Simply because a good heart, and compassion towards others' needs is essential, if any true and deep faith in God can exist. This is why any evil man, will never be a truly believing man. Zacchaeus and Cornelius are great biblical examples, of how faith in God, and compassion towards others are closely linked. Seen in Zacchaeus and Cornelius both displaying significant generosity toward their fellow man. It is revealed in scripture, that Zacchaeus gave half of his goods to feed the poor,²⁷ and if ever a mistake was to be made by him, in exacting too much from his fellow man, he restored unto them fourfold. Cornelius also, was a devout man, who gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.²⁸ Coupled with this the record of the spiritually compassionate Roman centurion, we can see that love, generosity, and care for the needs others, greatly affects the level of faith that we possess in God. The righteous character of Zacchaeus prompted Jesus bringing salvation to his house,²⁹ and Cornelius was the very first Gentile to be baptized with the Holy

Spirit,³⁰ biblically exemplifying that faith and goodness are spiritually inseparable.

The centurion, by addressing Jesus as *Lord*, reveals that he is well aware of the Son of God's representation of God on the earth. This teaches us, that if there is not true and sincere reverence for the Lord, then there is little chance that what is asked of him, shall be granted. It is also impossible to overemphasize the benefits of a genuine fear and reverence for God,³¹ simply because it is the foundation upon which all other proper spiritual understanding is gained from Him.³²

And Jesus saith unto him, [the centurion] I will come and heal him. (v. 7)

There is no hesitation on Jesus' part to grant the centurion's request. He knew the man's heart, just as He knows all men's hearts, and because of this, Jesus was well-aware of the genuine faith and humility possessed by the man. This spiritual evidence of both humility and faith, Jesus will ultimately reward, by granting the centurion's request. The Lord has always revealed Himself as a Rewarder, of those who through faith earnestly seek Him,³³

27 Luke 19:8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

28 Acts 10:2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

29 Luke 19:9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

30 Acts 10:30-33, 44 And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing. ³¹And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. ³²Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee. ³³Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God. ... ⁴⁴While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

31 Prov. 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

32 Prov. 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Prov. 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Ps. 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Ps. 25:12 What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

Ps. 25:14 The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

33 Heb. 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

and here is a prime example of this biblical reality in action. To therefore genuinely seek the Lord, prompted by genuine faith and trust in Him, will do nothing, but bring forth greater blessings upon one's life. Faith always possesses a reward, and those who sincerely possess this divine quality in their lives, shall come to personally experience this reward.

The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. (v. 8)

In respect to faith, there are few men in Scripture, who better exemplify, what true faith in God, actually knows of God. That it takes but a *word* from Him, if believed, to produce supernatural results. The centurion's words, reveal his deep faith and trust in the power of Christ—*speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed*. The centurion's words reveal to us, that he internally knew, that all that it is required for the supernatural to occur, is for God to speak a word. This truth, that the *word of God* and the *sword of the spirit*, only needs to be spoken to bring miraculous results, is perhaps the greatest lost truth today. That it takes but a *word* from heaven, to experience supernatural results, on the earth. So that when God truly speaks to a man, if he believes it, then God's power shall be abundantly displayed in the man's life.

Matthew 8:9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

(*Barnes' Notes on the Bible*, Matt. 8:9) *I am a man ...* - He had full confidence in the ability of Jesus to heal his servant, and requested him simply to give the command. This request he presented in a manner ap-

propriate to a soldier. I am a man, says he, under authority. That is, I am subject to the commands of others, and know how to obey. I have also under me soldiers who are accustomed to obedience. I say to one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes. I am "prepared," therefore, to believe that your commands will be obeyed. As these obey me, so do diseases, storms, and seas obey you. If men obey me, who am an "inferior" officer, subject to another, how much more shall diseases obey you - the original source of power having control over all things! (END QUOTE)

Matthew 8:10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

(*Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*, Matt. 8:10) *I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.*—The nature of the faith we have already seen. Israelites who sought our Lord's healing work, craved for presence, or touch, even if it were only the hem of the garment; sometimes, as in the case of the blind, and dumb, and deaf, for yet more material signs. Here was one who believed in the power of the word of the Christ, and asked for nothing more. (END QUOTE)

Matthew 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

(*Barnes' Notes on the Bible*, Matt. 8:11) *Many shall come from the east ...* - Jesus takes occasion from the faith of a Roman centurion to state that this conversion would not be solitary; that many pagans - many from the east and west would be converted to the gospel, and be saved, as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were. (END QUOTE)

In this one biblical record, we have a wonderful example of a truly believing man, who spiritually knew, that if Jesus speaks only a word to us when in need, then it is

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

certain that His power shall bring what has been spoken to pass. This is the *sword of the Spirit*, and this is the very same *word of God*, that when believed, shall produce supernatural results in people's lives. It takes but a word from God, to be delivered by God, and every truly believing man, like the centurion, knows this.