Sermon Notes

I. The explanation of the sword of the Spirit – Eph. 6:17; John 1:1; Hebrews 13:7

II. The emphasis of the sword of the Spirit - Hebrews 4:12

III. The example of the sword of the Spirit - Matthew 4:1-11
   A. Temptation number one: The lust of the flesh - Matthew 4:1-4; 20:28
   B. Temptation number two: The lust of the eyes – Matt. 4:5-7; Psalm 91:11
   C. Temptation number three: The pride of life - Matthew 4:8-11; James 4:7

IV. The effect of the sword of the Spirit
   A. This truth explains the dynamic of preaching.
   B. This truth encourages the discipline of reading the Bible through systematically.
   C. This truth exhorts us to the diligence of memorizing key passages of God’s word.

Small Group Questions

Getting Started

1. In war, soldiers (Navy, Marines, etc.) carry equipment with them at all times. What is essential equipment a soldier carries? How do these tools ensure that the soldier is able to move forward in his mission?
2. What is the difference between defensive and offensive weaponry (i.e. body armor, shoes, gun, sword, shield, bomb, radio, etc.)? When should a soldier use a defensive weapon? How about an offensive one?

Digging Deeper

1. Christians are soldiers in a spiritual war. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. Name the essential equipment that Christians have been given by God. What are our defensive weapons? What is our one and only offensive weapon? How does the Word of God (sword of the Spirit) serve as a powerful offensive tool in us against evil?

2. Temptation is a powerful instrument Satan uses against Christians. Satan has three strategic temptations he has used since the beginning of time (I John 2:16).
   - Lust of the Flesh (example: human hunger or appetites)
   - Lust of the Eyes (example: material items)
   - Pride of Life (example: ambition or power)

   Look at Genesis 3:1-7. Go through Eve’s temptation and discuss how Satan used each of the three key temptations against Eve.

3. As with Eve, so with us. List out the temptations Satan uses against us every day. How does Satan tempt us into “satisfying our own needs” instead of relying on God to meet all our needs? How does Satan use his three core temptations against us in everyday life?

4. Go back over your list of temptations of everyday life. What “swords” of the Word can we pull from the Word of God to battle these temptations? What are some “sword-bearing” habits we can form to ensure we are prepared for temptations?

5. Robert Jeffress wrote, “The Word of God has the ability to cut through the fog of Satan’s deceptions that may have descended upon our minds so that we can clearly see God’s truth.” When have you been in the fog of Satan’s deceptions? How has the Word of God cut through that fog? How did it feel to see God’s truth clearly?

Bringing it Home

1. Pastor Jeremiah said, “In order for us to be effective, we need to know what the Word of God is saying as it applies to each, specific situation.” What situation are you in, currently, that requires the Word to “clear away the fog”?

2. Maybe you are trying to defend yourself against sin, and God may be guiding you to be offensive against evil. How might “going on the offensive” against evil be a way for you to move forward in your relationship with Jesus?

3. What specific steps (or tools) could you use to live in deeper dependence on God, versus trying to fight the battle your way, in your time, with your understanding?