

LESSON 51 - YOUR SWORD

How To Use God's Word As A Weapon (Biblical Declarations)

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In John 16:33 Jesus said, *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* There are many troubles in life. Demons will attack you physically, emotionally, and with temptation. Your own sinful desires, habits, fears, doubts, and emotional weaknesses will rise up, get the best of you, causing you to fall short of your potential. Spouses, employers, coworkers, church members, family, friends, and those in authority will hurt you, making it difficult to be Christlike. The loss of loved ones, relationship strife, financial loss, illness, and other trials will try to steal your joy, contentment, optimism, and focus from the Kingdom of God and eternal matters. God does give the peace that surpasses all understanding to guard our hearts and minds (Philippians 4:7). However, this is peace you can have *in spite* of trouble, not peace because He takes away our troubles. You will have problems. You can be victorious if you: know and trust the Bible, God's Word; believe in God's goodness and trustworthiness; know and have faith in His promises; and declare them as needed. You must learn to use God's Word as a weapon against Satan and your flesh, and discipline yourself to do it. This lesson covers: 1) Biblical declarations, 2) How Jesus defeated Satan using biblical declarations, 3) Examples of biblical declarations.

1. Biblical Declarations. A declaration is an outward confession of faith using words. It's biblical when based on biblical truth, using the words or intentions of God. Our words are meaningless without faith (Hebrews 4:2) or supporting actions (1 John 3:18; James 2:17). However, our words are meaningful when they proceed from our faith and are backed by our actions. Romans 10:9-10 says, *"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."* If the words we speak come from our own ideas, thoughts, opinions, and feelings, they are merely constructs of communication and powerless against the enemy. Unlike *our* words, *God's* word is powerful. He spoke the entire universe into existence (Genesis 1:1). When our words are *inspired by God's Spirit* they are backed by *God's Word* and have God's power behind them. Our verbal declarations thus have *power* behind them when they are: 1) declaring a biblical truth, 2) inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit, 3) aligned with our personal faith, 4) aligned with the right motives of our hearts in service to God, and 5) aligned with God's character and will. Hebrews 4:12 says, *"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."* Ephesians 6:17 calls the word of God "the sword of the Spirit." Biblical declarations are used to preach soul-piercing truth, remind ourselves of important truths during moments of weakness for encouragement, or as spiritual warfare prayer to fight demonic attacks.

2. How Jesus Defeated Satan Using Biblical Declarations. Matthew 4:1-11 says, *“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil... The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”* Jesus defeated Satan by perceiving his evil intent and rejecting his temptations. He shows us that there’s power in knowing, trusting, and quoting God’s Word, in this case Deuteronomy 8:3. Satan and your flesh will tempt you with both sinful and natural desires that are easy to put before God. Don’t fight them relying on your own skill and strength. Fight them by trusting in God’s provision, and by knowing and declaring God’s Word (2 Chronicles 20:17; Exodus 14:14; Joshua 1:5; Philippians 4:19). *“Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”* Jesus answered him, *“It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”* Satan will distort God’s Word to deceive you. You need to know it well. Have you ever had arrogant thoughts like, “If God was real He needs to prove it to me by..”? Or “If God really loved me He wouldn’t let me go through this..”? Satan is behind these thoughts. Don’t test God. Trust His character and promises. Use declarations to remind yourself God is always good, loves you, and has good reasons for why He’s allowing you to go through things, even when you don’t understand them. *“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” Amen! “Then the devil left him...”*

3. Examples of Biblical Declarations. You can quote God’s Word verbatim the way Jesus did, or you could make personalized declarations in a way that shows your trust in the Gospel. For example, Romans 8:31 says, *“If God is for us, who can be against us?”* If you get attacked with thoughts of pessimism, victim mentality, or fear you could fight against them by declaring: **“God is on my side! If God is for me, who can be against me!?”** Are you attacked with thoughts of still being unsaved, God not forgiving your sins, or not having done enough to make up for your sin? Remind yourself that you’re forgiven by God’s grace alone through your faith in Jesus and not your works. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”* Ephesians 1:7 says, *“In him [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.”* Your declaration could be something like: **“I’m forgiven for my sins and saved! Not because I’m good enough, or because I’ve paid for my own sins, but because God is gracious, Jesus redeemed me by His blood, and I trust in Him!”** Are you struggling with temptations? James 4:7 says, *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* Your declaration could be: **“I submit myself to You, God. I resist the devil and he needs to flee from me right now!”** There are thousands of declaration options. Study, know, and trust God’s Word. Create your own and use them.

Let’s pray. Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us Your Word. Increase my love, knowledge, trust, and memory of it. Help me use it for spiritual growth, protection, and power. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Examples of Biblical Declarations

Category	Biblical Basis	Declarations
Being an Overcomer	Romans 8:31 Romans 8:38-39	"If God is for me, who can be against me?" "Nothing can separate me from the love of Jesus Christ!"
Trusting in God's defense	Ephesians 6:13 Ephesians 6:16	"I stand and put on the full armor of God!" "I will extinguish every arrow of Satan through faith in Christ!"
Confidence in Justification	Ephesians 6:14 Colossians 2:9-11	"I am fitted with the breastplate of righteousness!" "I am perfected and made complete in Christ!"
Being/Feeling Loved	Romans 8:38-39 Ephesians 2:4-5	"Nothing can separate me from the love of Jesus Christ!" "God loves me and has given me life in Christ!"
Identity / Position	2 Cor. 1:21-22 Phil. 3:20, Gal. 4:7	"I have been established, anointed, sealed, and born again!" "I am a citizen of Heaven and an heir through God!"
Relationship with God	Romans 8:14-16 2 Cor. 5:18	"I am a child of God... a son/daughter of God!" "I am reconciled to God and am a minister of reconciliation!"
Feeling Fearful	2 Timothy 1:7 Psalm 23:4	"I don't have a spirit of fear, but of power and self-control!" "I will fear no evil, for God is with me and He comforts me!"
Feeling Anxiety	Psalm 46:1, 10 Matthew 6:25-34	"I will be still, knowing God is over all, my refuge and strength!" "I will not worry about tomorrow, for I know God is in control!"
Overcoming Temptation	Philippians 4:8 James 4:7	"I will focus on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely!" "I submit to God and resist the devil, and he will flee from me!"
Needing Direction	Psalm 32:8 Proverbs 3:5	"God teaches me, counsels me, and watches over me!" "I will trust in the LORD and lean not on my own understanding!"

Chart from The Empowered Christian Road Map by Brian S. Holmes, Chapter 4, Section (T)