**Sunday, July 24, 2011**

**Welcome** - Greg Snow

**Call to Worship** – Psalm 99

**Song of Praise** – He Is Exalted

**Prayer of Confession** – Dependent on Jesus *(Source: The Open Sourcebook)*

Is our trust in our great and mighty God? Is it in the conquering warrior? Or is it in our bank accounts, our cleverness, and our ability to work things out on our own? God calls us to be utterly dependent upon him. Let’s pray that this would be so*:*

*O Lord of Grace, the world is before us today, and we are weak and fearful, but we look to you for strength;****If we venture forth alone we stumble and fall,******but on the Beloved’s arms we are held firm.***

*If we were left to our own treacherous hearts, we would bring shame to your name,****But if guided and upheld by your Spirit,******We will bring you glory.***

*Lord of Mercy, be the arm that supports us, our strength to stand, our light to see, our shield to protect, and our sword to repel the enemy.****We know that all lovingkindness is in your Son,******and we plead his blood to pay our debts.***

***By the power of your holy spirit,******accept his worthiness for our unworthiness,******his sinlessness for my sin,******his purity for my uncleanness,******his humility for my pride,******his obedience for my rebellion,******his glory for my shame,******his death for my life. Amen.***

**Songs of Praise** – I Need Thee Every Hour; I Worship You, Almighty God

**Words of Assurance** – 1 Timothy 1:12-17

**Song of Worship** – I Will Glory In My Redeemer

**Offering**

**\*The Sword of the Spirit** - Charles H. Spurgeon (Excerpt from a sermon delivered on April 19, 1891 at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington) (Please see excerpt below.)

**Songs of Worship** - There Is A Fountain; The Old Rugged Cross

**Message** - "*Content With Christ*"; Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 6:6-10

 “**Take-away’s”**

1. Doug Larson: “What some people mistake for the high cost of living is really the “cost of high living”.
2. Herbert Schlossberg: “All true needs such as food, drink, and companionship are satiable. Illegitimate wants - pride, envy, and greed - are insatiable. By their nature they cannot be satisfied…enough is never enough!”
3. People who spend their whole lives to gain material possessions fail to realize that all of it is locked into time and space. They are like the deckhands on the Titanic wasting their time arranging the deck chairs on a sinking ship.
4. C-Cleaner: Just like we run a C-Cleaner on our computer, we need to continually run a C-Cleaner (Christ-Cleaner) in our lives to clean out the junk! We need to do this so our lives can run better in Him and for Him!

**Song of our Response** – Give Me Jesus

\*The Sword of the Spirit -  Sermon excerpt from Charles H. Spurgeon

To be a good Christian is to be a warrior. The good soldier of Jesus Christ must not expect to find ease in this world: it is a battle-field. Neither must he reckon upon the friendship of the world; for that would be enmity against God. His occupation is war. As he puts on piece by piece of the panoply provided for him, he may wisely say to himself, "This warns me of danger; this prepares me for warfare; this prophesies opposition.“

The words you just heard were from a sermon preached by Charles Haden Spurgeon on April 19, 1891. The sermon, *The Sword of the Spirit*, was preached using Ephesians 6:17 as the text: "Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Continue listening as Spurgeon challenges his congregation to “Take the sword!, and so go forth to the field.”

The Word of God is also the sword of the Spirit because he puts the edge upon it. It is because he is in it that it is so keen and cutting. I believe in the inspiration of Holy Scripture, not only in the day when it was written, but onward, and even to this day. It is still inspired; still doth the Holy Ghost breathe through the chosen words. I told you the sword was all edge; but I would add that the Holy Spirit makes it so. It would have no edge at all if it were not for his presence within it, and his perpetual working by it. How many people read their Bibles, and yet derive no more benefit there from than if they had read an old almanac! In fact, they would more easily keep awake over an ancient Bradshaw than over a chapter of Scripture.

The ministers of the gospel may preach God's Word in all sincerity and purity, and yet, if the Spirit of God be not present, we might as well have preached mere moral essays, for no good can come of our testimony. The Holy Ghost rides in the chariot of Scripture, and not in the wagon of modern thought. Scripture is that ark of the covenant which contains the golden pot of manna, and also bears above it the divine light of God's shining. The Spirit of God worketh in, by, and through, and with the Word; and if we keep to that Word, we may rest assured that the Holy Ghost will keep with us, and make our testimony to be a thing of power. Let us pray the blessed Spirit to put an edge on our preaching, lest we say much and accomplish little. Hear us in this thing, O blessed One! It is "the sword of the Spirit" because he alone can instruct us in the use of it. You think, young man, that you can pick up your Bible, and go and preach from it at once, properly and successfully. You have made a presumptuous mistake.

A sword is a weapon which may do hurt to the man who flourishes with it in mere wanton pride. No one can handle the sword of the Spirit aright save the chosen man whom God hath ordained from before the foundation of the world, and trained in feats of arms. By this the elect of God are known—that they love the Word of God, and they have a reverence for it, and discern between it and the words of man.

Notice the lambs in the field, just now; and there may be a thousand ewes and lambs; but every lamb finds out its own mother. So does a true-born child of God know where to go for the milk which is to nourish his soul. The sheep of Christ know the Shepherd's voice in the Word, and a stranger will they not follow, for they know not the voice of strangers. God's own people have discernment to discover and relish God's own Word. They will not be misled by the cunning craftiness of human devices. Saints know the Scriptures by inward instinct. The holy life, which God has infused into believers by his Spirit, loves the Scriptures, and learns how to use them for holy purposes. Young soldier, you must go to the training-ground of the Holy Spirit to be made a proficient swordsman. You will go in vain to the metaphysician or to the logician; for neither of these knows how to handle a spiritual weapon. In other arts they may be masters; but in the sacred use of diving theology they are mere fools.

In the things of the Word we are dunces till we enter the school of the Holy Ghost. He must take of the things of Christ, and show them unto us. He must teach us how to grip this sword by faith, and how to hold it by watchfulness, so as to parry the adversary's thrust, and carry the war into the foeman's territory. He is well taught who can swing this great two-handed sword to and fro, and mow a lane through the midst of his opponents, and come out a conqueror at the end. It may take a long time to learn this art; but we have a right skillful Teacher. Those of us who have been in this warfare thirty or forty years feel that we have not yet reached the full use of this sword; nay, I know for one, that I need daily to be taught how to use this mysterious weapon, which is capable of so much more than I have yet supposed. It is the sword of the Spirit, adapted for the use of an Almighty arm, and therefore equal to the doing of far more than we think. Holy Spirit, teach us now feats of arms by this thy sword!