

Lesson 11 | February 13, 2022

Paul Confronts Evil Spirits

Study Text: Acts 13:1–12; 16:13–18; 19:11–20

Central Truth: Every evil spirit is subject to the power and authority of Jesus Christ.

Key Verse: Acts 16:18

Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour (KJV).

This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And instantly it left her (NLT).

Learning Objectives

- Students should affirm the reality of evil spirits and the spiritual realm.
- Students should develop a scriptural view of evil spirits, recognizing that they are subject to the power and authority of Christ.
- Students should recognize the need to seek God for help in spiritual battles.

Introducing the Lesson

Say: Jesus encountered evil spirits throughout His earthly ministry, and clearly had authority over them. When He sent out His disciples, He gave them authority over evil spirits as well as power to heal diseases (Matthew 10:1). As a servant of Christ, Paul also had that authority—as do we. In the three events we study today, we will see that authority at work, but we will also see the folly of trying to duplicate God’s work on our own. (✓ Play the video available at RadiantLifeCurriculum.com/Adult.)

David, a young man from San Hose in Costa Rica was demon possessed. Paul and Karla Weis were missionaries. David’s condition came to light during practice one night for the drama Heaven’s Gates and Hell’s flames. Paul was away to Nicaragua. Karla was leading the practice for the drama. They were doing a devotion and the question came up if anyone needed prayer. David raised his hand. Karla and John went to him and prayed. He threw himself on the floor. They prayed for him for over an

hour. The next day another man was delivered from a demon and revival broke out. David told Karla from the moment he heard about the drama something inside him told him he was to disrupt it. But God had other plans. They had three nights of a packed out tent sharing the Gospel of Jesus through the drama. Two years later Paul and Karla met David in Sarche.. He said he graduated from Teen Challenge and this was his home church. His mother had come the second night of the drama and got saved. David said he started a drama team and they ministered in the community park.

Opening Activity—Evil Spirits?

Ask: What activities in the world today might be classified as the work of evil spirits? What encounters have you had with such activities?

Say: The supernatural world is as real today as it was in Paul's day. That supernatural world includes evil spirits. Often, we move in circles where we are unaware of them, but we must be prepared to confront evil of every kind through the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Share your highlights from the following text.)

The supernatural encounters found in today's Scripture passages occurred over the course of Paul's three missionary journeys, with one encounter during each journey. While there are different characters involved, these events hold one common theme: the Christian's activity in and response to the supernatural realm. For many, even within the church, the supernatural realm seems out of reach for the believer. However, as we will see, the powers of darkness are real, and they will clash with the people of God. As such, we must be prepared to respond accordingly, by calling upon the power and authority of Jesus Christ.

Part 1—Encounter With a Sorcerer Sent Out by the Holy Spirit

Acts 13:2–5

[Act 13:1-5 KJV] 1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work**

whereunto I have called them. 3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid [their] hands on them, they sent [them] away. 4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. 5 And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to [their] minister.

Say: The most important element for ministry of any kind, including confronting evil, is to be sure we are moving in the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul and Barnabas didn't even begin their missionary journey to preach, teach, heal, and cast out evil spirits until they knew they were moving within the will of God.(Share your highlights from the following text.)

Acts 13 opens as Barnabas and Paul (then called Saul) were about to begin their first missionary journey. It is worthwhile to note that the phrase "have called" in 13:2 indicates God had already been speaking to Barnabas and Paul. Earlier, God had told Paul that he would minister for Him (Acts 9:15–16), and He had also revealed this to Ananias in order to confirm the call He had already placed on Paul.

Then, the church in Antioch sensed it was God's plan for Barnabas and Paul to go out (see Acts 13:3). As a body of believers, they had confirmation from the Holy Spirit. The church continued to fast and pray for God's direction, and they commissioned these two men by laying hands on them and sending them out. Thus, we can observe that this was a Spirit-led process. Any time we move out in ministry, or send others out, it must be an occasion that follows the leading of the Spirit. As we will see, ministry often involves spiritual battles, and in those moments, we must be empowered by the Spirit for wisdom and direction, following the example of Barnabas and Paul as they embarked on their missionary journey. Luke emphasized that the Holy Spirit sent them; it was not just the church at Antioch (verse 4).

First, these two missionaries went to Seleucia, which was sixteen miles to the west of Antioch. From there they sailed to Cyprus, and landed at Salamis, a port on the northeast side of the island (verses 4–5). Cyprus was the home of Barnabas (see Acts 4:36), and others had already proclaimed the gospel in Cyprus to the Jews only (see Acts 11:19). Barnabas and Paul may have wanted to strengthen these believers as well as evangelize in the area.

Since there was a large Jewish community at Salamis, Barnabas and Paul first went to the synagogue (Acts 13:5), as was their normal practice. Jews knew the promises of the coming Messiah. It was likely they might be receptive to the gospel.

Discuss

? How can Christians ensure that their ministry plans are led by the Spirit?

? What are some examples of how the Church sends out ministers and missionaries today?

Empowered by the Spirit

Acts 13:6–12

[Act 13:6-12 KJV] 6 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name [was] Barjesus: 7 Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. 9 Then Saul, (who also [is called] Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, 10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, [thou] child of the devil, [thou] enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? 11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord [is] upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

Say: Not only were Paul and Barnabas sent out by the Holy Spirit, they were empowered in their ministry by the Holy Spirit. It was through the Holy Spirit that Paul had the right words to say in confronting the sorcerer, who was trying to interfere with the governor to whom Paul and Barnabas were ministering. God always empowers us to do the ministry He calls us to do. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

There were several cities along the 112-mile route from Salamis to Paphos, and Paul and Barnabas likely spent time in each city (Acts 13:6). **When they arrived at Paphos, in the southwestern area of Cyprus, they met with opposition—a false prophet and sorcerer named Bar-Jesus (verses 6–7). This man used magic to deceive and gain power over people.**

The ministry of Barnabas and Paul reached the ears of Sergius Paulus, the Roman governor of the area. This governor wisely took care to observe all that went on in his area, and so he met with Paul and Barnabas. However, Bar-Jesus knew that if the governor accepted the gospel, he would lose his influence over this governor. As a result, Bar-Jesus tried to hinder Barnabas and Paul's ministry. **But his magical arts had no power against the Holy Spirit.** Paul revealed who this sorcerer was and what he was trying to do, and pronounced God's judgment on him. Immediately, Bar-Jesus was stricken with blindness—**a testimony to the genuine nature of the ministry of Paul and Barnabas, as well as to the power of the Spirit over all evil forces** (verses 8–11). **All healing and delivery from demons are a testimony of the Power of God.**

The governor was moved by the power of the Holy Spirit working through Paul. But more than that, the governor was “astonished at the teaching about the Lord”(Acts 13:12, NLT). **He was moved by the gospel not because of the miracle, but as a result of hearing the message of Jesus.**

While supernatural gifts confirm the gospel, people need to hear the good news articulated, in order to grasp its message and thereby accept Christ as Savior (Romans 10:9–10,14–17). **We must believe God for miracles and to be used in all of the gifts of the Spirit, but our primary commission is to tell others about Jesus.**

Resource Packet Item 1: Miracles and Evangelism

Distribute the work sheet and work through it as a class or have small groups work together then share with the rest of the class for discussion.

Discuss

? Why is it important to focus on the gospel rather than on miracles or supernatural gifts?

? What are some ways you are helping to tell the world about Jesus?

Part 2—Confrontation With a Fortune-Teller Encountering Supernatural Opposition

Acts 16:13–17

[Act 16:13-17 KJV] 13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted [thither]. 14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which

worshipped God, heard [us]: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. 15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought [us], saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide [there]. And she constrained us. 16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: 17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

Say: In this second event that we are studying, in Acts 16, we find Paul and Silas encountering a fortune teller whose message may have initially seemed positive, as it showed that **even evil spirits recognize the power of God**. We must be on our guard to see the difference and respond accordingly. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Acts 16 records part of the travels of Paul and Silas during Paul's second missionary journey. More specifically, as this encounter begins, they are in Philippi. It was important because it was the place where Paul met Lydia, who became an important partner in his ministry. She is also regarded by many as the first specifically documented convert to Christianity in Europe (Acts 16:13–15).

In Philippi, Paul made a practice of meeting by the river, as it had become an ongoing opportunity for Paul and his co-laborers to present the gospel to a number of God-fearing Gentiles. **It was not uncommon to find individuals who worshipped the God of the Jews in the Mediterranean world. These came to believe in the Jewish God but did not convert to Judaism. Paul, then, was able to relate to them in familiar terms while proclaiming the Messiah.**

During one of these occasions, however, Paul encountered a demon-possessed slave (Acts 16:16–17). At first glance, it appeared that she was doing Paul and Silas a favor. She traveled around with them for several days, announcing that they were servants of God with a message of salvation from God. **However, it becomes clear that the evil spirit within her had far different intentions—and these very intentions prompted Paul to act, confronting evil in the spiritual realm.**

Discuss

? What are some opportunities to share Christ that you encounter on a regular basis?

? How can we prepare ourselves for spiritual encounters that will involve souls that need Jesus—and may even lead to spiritual battles?

Distinguishing Real from Counterfeit

Acts 16:18

[Act 16:18 KJV] 18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Say: Paul showed patience in not confronting the girl with the evil spirit for several days. Yet the Holy Spirit gave him discernment to know that, while her words were basically accurate, she was being motivated by evil. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The words of the slave, though seemingly complimentary of Paul and Silas, greatly disturbed Paul (Acts 16:18). **After several days of her shouting, Paul discerned that this hindered the work of the Lord and provided a poor testimony of his message. Ultimately, her words had their source in an evil spirit, and Paul recognized that.**

Paul dealt with this problem by confronting the girl. Notice, however, that he did not speak to her. Rather, Paul addressed the demon: “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her” (NLT). This command, given in the name of Jesus, was backed by the authority of Jesus. What happened next, then, was not Paul’s doing: The demon left the girl immediately.

Paul’s actions in this account remind us of the ministry of Jesus (see Matthew 8:16; 9:33; 17:18, et al.). **Deliverance from demonic powers was a regular component of Jesus’ ministry. And because the spiritual battle against evil forces continues today, we do well to pray for discernment and wisdom, then seek the guidance and power of the Spirit in the ministry of deliverance and healing.**

Discuss

? To what extent do you depend upon the wisdom and power of the Spirit in your ministry endeavors? Explain.

? How might you become more dependent upon the Spirit?

Resource Packet Item 2: Paul and the Gifts of the Spirit

Distribute the work sheet and have students mark the top portion, then discuss their responses and the questions that follow.

Part 3—Christ Exalted Through Supernatural Manifestations

Failure To Duplicate Miracles

Acts 19:11–16

[Act 19:11-16 KJV] 11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: 12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. 13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. 14 And there were seven sons of [one] Sceva, a Jew, [and] chief of the priests, which did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? 16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

Say: Attempting to duplicate the power of God through our own efforts has disastrous results. In Ephesus, seven brothers discovered the folly of trying to perform miracles without the power of the Holy Spirit.

Even though they used the name of Jesus, they were powerless because their hearts were not right with God. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The events of Acts 19 took place during Paul’s third missionary journey. More specifically, this chapter records Paul’s ministry in Ephesus. The bold preaching, persuasive teaching, and accompanying miracles through the ministry of Paul and his associates led to the rapid growth of the church in that city. Paul performed signs and wonders through the Spirit’s power, so much so that people sought to acquire handkerchiefs and aprons touched by Paul to take to the sick for healing. So great was the power working through him that mere contact with these garments brought healings and the release of evil spirits from individuals (Acts 19:11–12).

The amazing demonstrations of power through the ministry of Paul led certain Jewish exorcists to attempt to imitate his methods. **Verses 13–16 describe an attempt by seven sons of Sceva (a Jewish chief priest) to cast out demonic spirits “in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches” (verse 13, NLT).** This attempt led to unexpected consequences. Through the demon-possessed man, the demonic spirit overpowered them, leaving them bruised, beaten, and running naked from the house.

Their unfortunate experience offers us an important reminder: **Divine miracles are not achieved through a magic formula. They are never the result of an incantation or a prescribed choice of words, nor do they come through the efforts of men or women. They take place when people who are filled with the Holy Spirit surrender to the direction and wisdom of the Spirit.**

Signs and wonders are not restricted to Paul and the apostles in the first century. They accompany the preaching of the gospel today, and are meant to demonstrate and authenticate the message. **We must remember that God's power has not diminished, just as His desire to manifest His power has not diminished.** His power will follow those who passionately depend upon the Spirit and are determined to bring the message of salvation to those in need of salvation.

Discuss

? What are some ways people might try to mimic the power of God, and why might they do so?

? How can Christians know that a ministry, including signs and wonders, is legitimate?

Seized with Fear

Acts 19:17–20

[Act 19:17-20 KJV]17 And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. 18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. 19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all [men]: and they counted the price of them, and found [it] fifty thousand [pieces] of silver. 20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

Say: A true demonstration of the power of God produces a response, even from those who do not know Him. Some respond in acceptance and repentance, while others respond in rejection or even anger. In Acts 19:17, **the city of Ephesus responded in “solemn fear” and the name of Jesus was held in honor. Many repented and took immediate action to change their behavior.** (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Not surprisingly, the dramatic story of the seven sons of Sceva spread quickly in the city, and as a result many were seized with a sense of solemn fear, recognizing the power demonstrated by the missionaries. **To better understand this sense of fear, we note that the name of Jesus began**

to be held in high regard (Where is the fear of God today in America) (verse 17). Wherever Paul and his followers went in the city, people listened to the message he proclaimed.

The response of the people was by no means superficial. Verse 18 reports that many who believed confessed their sins openly. Their conversions were life-changing events.

Resource Packet Item 3: Understanding Repentance

Distribute the work sheet. You may either read the introductory material aloud and respond to the questions as a class, or you may have small groups work together on it.

Many of the new Ephesian believers reacted in extraordinary ways to their new faith. Some who had previously practiced witchcraft and sorcery brought their books of magic and publicly burned them. These books were of great monetary value. Luke, the writer of Acts, noted that the total value of those items was fifty thousand pieces of silver (verse 19, KJV). If these were drachmas, as is widely believed, the amount was equivalent to two years' wages for two hundred laborers or soldiers. Today, this would amount to more than ten million dollars.

While it is important to remember that we are not saved by our works, our works do provide evidence that our faith is authentic (see Ephesians 2:8–9). Just as the Ephesian believers demonstrated that their faith was authentic by their rejection of their old ways, believers ought to do the same today. We should not proclaim a false gospel that leaves out a life-changing response.

We must also remember that life-change takes place through the power of the Spirit, who is at work within us as we seek to follow the Lord more closely and grow in relationship with Him.

The ministry of Paul and his companions was effective for many reasons. They were bold in their proclamation. They were dependent upon the Spirit for the power to preach in the midst of hostile circumstances. Signs and wonders accompanied their ministry, drawing attention to their life-changing message. And, as a result, the name of the Lord was praised.

Discuss

? What are some specific ways your life is different because of your salvation?

? What does it mean to depend upon the Spirit to help you share the gospel?

What Is God Saying to Us?

Say: The gospel has the ability to change lives. But this gospel is only proclaimed effectively when those who preach it do so while remaining dependent upon the Holy Spirit. We must recognize that people respond to the gospel when the Holy Spirit works through us and within their hearts—not just when we are able to articulate the gospel with great skill or charisma. And so, we can and must trust the Spirit to help us in the

natural components of ministry, even as we believe for signs and wonders to follow, for the glory of Christ.

Living It Out

Ministry in Action

- Challenge students to believe for Spirit-empowered ministry and service, as well as for supernatural signs to follow such ministry.
- Help students prepare themselves spiritually for opposition from unbelievers as they proclaim their faith.
- Remind students that as they convey the Word to others, people will respond to the gospel and experience the life-altering power of the Spirit.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday:

Commanded To Confront Spiritual Darkness.
Numbers 33:50–56

[Num 33:50-56 KJV] 50 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the plains of Moab by Jordan [near] Jericho, saying, 51 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan; 52 Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places: 53 And ye shall dispossess [the inhabitants] of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it. 54 And ye shall divide the land by lot for an inheritance among your families: [and] to the more ye shall give the more inheritance, and to the fewer ye shall give the less inheritance: every man's [inheritance] shall be in the place where his lot falleth; according to the tribes of your fathers ye shall inherit. 55 But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them [shall be] pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell. 56 Moreover it shall come to pass, [that] I shall do unto you, as I thought to do unto them.

Troubled by a Distressing Spirit.
1 Samuel 16:14–23

[1Sa 16:14-23 KJV] 14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. 15 And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. 16 Let our lord now command thy servants, [which are] before thee, to seek out a man, [who is] a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well. 17 And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring [him] to me. 18

Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, [that is] cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD [is] with him. 19 Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which [is] with the sheep. 20 And Jesse took an ass [laden] with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent [them] by David his son unto Saul. 21 And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. 22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. 23 And it came to pass, when the [evil] spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

Wednesday:

A Lying Spirit.
1 Kings 22:19–23

[1Ki 22:19-23 KJV] 19 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. 20 And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. 21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. 22 And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade [him], and prevail also: go forth, and do so. 23 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.

Thursday:

Tormenting Spirits Cast Out.
Mark 5:2–13

[Mar 5:2-13 KJV] 2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, 3 Who had [his] dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: 4 Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any [man] tame him. 5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. 6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, 7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, [thou] Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. 8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, [thou] unclean spirit. 9 And he asked him, What [is] thy name? And he answered, saying, My name [is] Legion: for we are many. 10 And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. 11 Now there was there nigh

unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. 12 And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. 13 And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

Friday:

The Power of God's Kingdom.
Luke 11:17–20

[Luk 11:17-20 KJV] 17 But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house [divided] against a house falleth. 18 If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub. 19 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast [them] out? therefore shall they be your judges. 20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

Saturday:

Combating Spiritual Forces.
Ephesians 6:10–17

[Eph 6:10-17 KJV] 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places]. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: