

I was trying to build a simple shelf, and as I struggled to cut notches in several pieces of wood, I realized how badly my sword was in need of sharpening. It was a simple single-edged tool that I used for many things. But it was not meant to make the exacting cuts that I was attempting. As I considered sharpening it, I was reminded about the saying about the Word of God, how it was sharper than any double-edged sword and could divide precisely the soul and spirit¹. I wished that God would sharpen my sword for me and make my job a little easier. Or perhaps I should upgrade to the double-edged version. The logic would seem to be, if one edge is good, then two are better². I can see some learned teacher³ extending that to three edges (like an extruded triangle), but you know that that just wouldn't work at all.

Of course, I don't know the details about spiritual dimensions, but still it would seem to require an extremely sharp edge to be able to separate soul and spirit. God has a way of dividing things with his great power, like dividing darkness and light, and the heavens and the earth⁴. He can separate good and evil, and bring about His plan for the new Kingdom. He symbolized that in Nebuchadnezzar's dream where the rock not carved by human hands destroyed the statue representing the greatest kingdom in the world⁵.

God works through the higher dimensions that this world is built around so that He can rightly divide the word of His Truth⁶. But He is also able to carve our soul into a proper representation of God, as it is written that we were circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands⁷. He cuts away that which is not like Himself⁸, if we will only stand still and submit to His keen edge.

We are made, like the rock in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, to destroy (or at least to battle) evil. When I think of a sharpened sword flashing brightly, I can see that God's Truth flashes so throughout His creation. It is a beacon or marker to show the Way of the Good News of God's Grace. We should be sparkling in our efforts to support this.

After meditating on these thoughts, I returned to my project. It struck me how nice it would be if suddenly my shelf was made "without hands" (without my hands, at least) and I could finish it without further frustration.

1. Hebrews 4:12 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.
2. Ecclesiastes 4:12; Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
3. for present day readers interpret this as: manager
4. see Genesis 1:4-7
5. Daniel 2:34-35
6. 2 Timothy 2:15, KJV
7. Colossians 2:9-11a; For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands.
8. Galatians 2:20a; I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.