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The Sword of the Peace Pact

Take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.—Ephesians 6.17

ONE sword is allowable. Not only allowable but commendable. One may take pride in its possession. One may glory in its use. Most swords are better beaten into plowshares. To do that with this one would be a desecration. Most swords are meant for use in war; their use during peace has only a parade value. This sword has no parade value. Its fearless use in time of peace means that there will be no more war. What is this remarkable sword? It is the sword of the Spirit. It is the sword of God. The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, says, "Thou shalt not kill." It is a divinely inspired word. It is a word which cannot be altered. It cannot have two interpretations, one interpretation for the individual and another for the nation. We cannot say that it is wrong for an individual to kill one other, but that it is right for a nation to kill ten thousand others; that retail killing is sinful, but wholesale killing is righteous; that it is to be regretted when one kills another on the basis of personal hatred or uncontrolled passion, but that it is to be commended when a nation kills fifty thousand others on the basis of patriotism. "One murder makes a villain, a million a hero," is the false logic of war. It is not the logic of God. It is not the logic of the sword of the peace pact. Christ carried the sword of the peace pact. It was his protecting armament as well as his conquering weapon. On the flyleaf of the Bible of one of the noblest men who ever lived was penned this statement, "This Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book." Pentecost honors this sword and bids the nations carry it as the instrument making effective their peace pacts. For peace comes by the Holy Spirit.

—From "Pentecost Day by Day," by Bruce S. Wright. Abingdon Press.