**The sword of the Spirit**

**1. God *must* introduce himself**

…for us to know him

Complicating factors:

* No one has ever seen God (John 1:18a; 1 Tim. 1:17; 6:16)
* God is unlimited, we’re limited (Job 11:7-9)
* God is perfect, we’re fallen (Romans 1:18-23)

**2. God *wants* to introduce himself**

Always existed, always loved (John 14:31; 17:24)

Wants to include us into this circle of love (John 17:26)

**3. God *has* introduced himself in Jesus**

John 1:18

Complicating factors doesn’t stop him (Col. 1:15; John 14:9)

Great! But problem: *Jesus isn’t here anymore!*

He’s gone back to the Father (eg. John 13:1,3, 31-33)

Now that Jesus isn’t here anymore, what now? How is God going to talk to us? How do we hear his voice?

**Answer: the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18)**

How does it work? Quaker-style?

Building a case to show how the Holy Spirit speaks

* Communication requires words

John 3:34, 6:63. The Word of God is speaking the words of God!

Now that Jesus is going away, how do we access his life-giving, God-revealing words?

Answer: John 14:26

**4. The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the apostles (connects God’s Word to them)**

John 16:12-14

Helping apostles join the dots, know all of God’s truth

1 Corinthians 2:10-13

The message of wisdom he declares: the gospel ( 1 Cor. 1:18-25)

Only God’s Spirit knows the thoughts of God (v.11)

Reveals it to the apostles (v.12)

Apostles teach these Spirit-taught words (v.13)

Writes New Testament “carried along by the Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21)

Cf. OT (Matt. 22:43 quoting Psalm 110:1)

The Bible – the Holy Spirit’s words/book! Sword of the Spirit! (Eph. 6:17)

Go closely together (eg. John 3:5 cf. 1 Peter 1:23)

Therefore

* **Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what God has joined together.**
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the way we think about the Bible**
* **Recognise if the Bible is the Spirit’s words, the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5. The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the readers** (1 Cor. 2:14-16)

Breaks the code, lights up the room

Opens blind eyes → keeps correcting vision (Eph. 1:17-18; 2 Tim 2:7)