

## The Word of God As The Foundation For Yearly Reformation

*Hebrews 4:12-13 ESV*

God-glorifying resolutions must be saturated in faith, and faith must have its sustenance in the Word of God.

*"In short, I will preach it, teach it, write it, but I will constrain no one by force, for faith must come freely without compulsion. Take myself as an example. I opposed indulgences and all the papists, but never with force. I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept, or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends Philip and Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything."*

~ Martin Luther

*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

**Hebrews 4:12-13 (ESV)**

### The Word of God is Living

He [Moses] received living oracles to give to us...

**Acts 7:38 (ESV)**

...since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God...

**1 Peter 1:23 (ESV)**

No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**2 Peter 1:21 (ESV)**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...

**2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)**

### The Word of God is ACTIVE

Have you heard the phrase "Actions speak louder than words?" Well, not for God! Part of what it means to be a fallen human is that we often separate our actions from our words. However, as you read the word of God, you realize that this dichotomy does not exist with God. God's speaking is contemporaneous with his doing. Look at **Psalm 33:6**: "*By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.*" Creation is as far as we need to go to see this reality substantiated.

*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power...*

**Hebrews 1:1-3 (ESV)**

Regeneration is a sovereign work of the almighty God. Spiritually dead people do not suddenly sprout saving faith, causing God to make them come alive. Rather, faith is the first "childlike coos" of the new birth God performs in our hearts: "Even when we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ" (**Eph. 2:4b**). We are born again (regenerated), then we come to faith, then we are justified, and then we begin to undergo the lifelong sanctification process. God's word is the instrument that effects the new birth. It jumpstarts the entire process. Look at **James 1:18**: "Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

*“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”*

**John 17:17 (ESV)**

*“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”*

**Isaiah 55:10-11 (ESV)**

### **The Word of God is Deadly TO A HEART OF ILL INTENTION**

The Apostle John draws upon this two-edged sword imagery in Revelation chapter 1, and the content is rather terrifying. **Revelation 1:1**, “*The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place...*” In **verse 14**, we get one of the first glimpses of this revelation of the Christ, “*...The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.*” Then in **chapter 2:16**, Jesus proclaims to the church in Pergamum, “*Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.*” So, the word of God is saving, yes! The word of God is comforting, yes! The word of God is sustaining, yes! But here, brothers and sisters, the word of God is also deadly.

I think what is being communicated here is that there is no part of the human, whether it is biology or psychology, mind, body or spirit that the word of God will not penetrate with absolute precision. The word of God will reach the radical center of human selfhood, the very core and essence of our being... our thoughts, our attitudes, our feelings, our desires and our motivations.

*The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.*

**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (ESV)**

*The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.*

**John 12:48 (ESV)**

### **THE Gospel According To the Scriptures**

*Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.*

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.*

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (ESV)**

The word of God, which will penetrate and leave bare our hearts and force us to lift our heads and stare face to face with the King on the last day, also reveals within its pages as the climax of its redemptive narrative... the gospel. We will not face the sword of God’s judgement on that final day because the sword of God’s judgement was plunged into the heart of Jesus in the place of those who hope in him. His word promises salvation and steadfastness to those who believe, because Jesus died for our sins. He was buried and raised on the third day, his resurrection being the Father’s amen to the son’s words upon that tree, “It is finished!” This is the wonderful gift promised in his word for those that believe.

*... Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples...”*

**John 8:31 (ESV)**

*“Those believers will stand firmest who have no dependence upon self or upon creatures, but upon Jehovah our Righteousness. We must be driven more to our Bibles, and to the mercy-seat, if we are to stand in the evil day...”*

~ Robert Murray M’Cheyne