



# SUNDAY MORNING

## AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** The Transforming Power of the Word of God

**Passage:** Hebrews 4:12-13

**Speaker:** Pastor Dan Preston

**Introduction:** If we are honest, many of us can point to moments when God's Word stopped us in our tracks — when a familiar verse or a sermon suddenly made it clear that God Himself was speaking. Today, we come to one of the clearest passages on the power of Scripture. Though these verses are well known, familiarity can dull their edge. Writing to people who knew God's Word yet, were tempted to harden their hearts, the author of Hebrews issues a sober warning: God's Word must not be admired from a distance but received and obeyed. This passage shows us why we dare not treat the Word of God lightly.

### I. The Word of God is a Living Word (Verse 12a)

The danger for church people is not ignorance of Scripture—it is resistance to Scripture.

The question is not whether the Word of God is alive—the question is whether we are listening.

If the Word of God feels distant, powerless, or irrelevant in your life, the problem is not with the Word. The problem is with our willingness to let it live in us.

*"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22)*

### II. The Word of God is a Powerful Word (Verse 12b)



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The Word of God is never passive. It never sits idle. It is always accomplishing something—either softening hearts or exposing resistance.

*“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11)*

Generation after generation, the Word of God continues to break sinners, rebuild lives, and produce faith where none existed.

The Word of God does not exist to affirm us in our comfort—it exists to conform us to Christ.

### **III. The Word of God is a Penetrating Word (Verse 12c)**

The Word of God cuts where nothing else can reach.

It exposes not only what we do, but why we do it. It reveals not only our sins, but our excuses. It cuts through self-deception.

If the Word of God is cutting into your conscience, uncovering attitudes, revealing pride, or convicting you of sin — that is not cruelty. That is mercy.

The most dangerous place a believer can live is where the Word no longer wounds—because that usually means the heart has grown calloused.

### **IV. The Word of God is a Discerning and Inescapable Judge (Verses 12d-13)**

No areas of life are exempt from divine examination and there are no parts of your heart God has not already seen.

A. It confronts the unbeliever



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*“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27)*

The Word that you resisted in grace will stand as witness in judgment.

B. It confronts the complacent believer

The Word of God does not merely inform you, it is asking something of you. Every time you say “not now,” the heart grows slightly less sensitive.

C. It confronts the faithful believer

There is deep comfort in knowing that God sees what others never notice.

**Conclusion:** We began with the image of a scalpel—sharp, precise, and purposeful. God’s Word cuts not to harm, but to heal, yet healing only comes when we submit to it. Throughout this passage, the Word has examined and exposed our hearts, and now only one question remains: how will we respond? Some will resist, some will delay, but by God’s grace others will submit—trusting that the same Word that convicts is wielded by a gracious Savior. Hebrews does not leave us wounded without hope; it points us to Jesus, our Great High Priest, whose pierced hands bring forgiveness, restoration, and strength. So today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart. Let the Word do its work, and respond in faith and obedience.

