

“YOUR WORD IS... Alive and Powerful”

It is absolutely essential that we accept and believe the Bible to be the inspired, inerrant, unchanging, authoritative Word of God. We must believe that it is absolute truth, and that it is our authoritative guide for faith and conduct. To undermine the authority of Scripture eliminates the record of Jesus’ life, teachings, death and resurrection. To do-away-with the authority of Scripture eliminates the revelation that God has given to us of Himself. Those who attempt to discredit the authority of Scripture are trying to eliminate the Bible from being a standard of absolute truth for behavior and belief. Those who choose to undermine the authority of Scripture have nothing sturdy to cling to. But those who accept and believe the Bible to be the Word of God are anchored on solid rock. All Christians need to know how to feed themselves, spiritually, by using the Word of God. God’s Word is powerful, and it is able to change us completely, and keep forming us into the image of Jesus. Hebrews 4:12-13 says, “*For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*”¹³ *And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*” There are four realities from these verses that should motivate us to give top priority to the Word of God in our lives.

First of all, Hebrews 4:12-13 tells us that the Bible is **a living Word**. It is not just ink on a page or a dead letter – it is alive and active. Because they’re alive, the Scriptures are always spot-on relevant to every age and culture. *There was a man who said he had received no inspiration from the Bible, although he had “gone through it several times.” “Let it go through you once,” replied a listener, “then you will tell a different story!”* **Second**, Hebrews 4:12-13 tells us that the Bible is **a powerful Word**. The Word of God is potent, energetic and always at work. News articles may inform us; novels may inspire us; poetry may enrapture us – but only the living, powerful Word of God can transform us. The Word of God should change our lives and completely shape our worldview. The Word of God will always accomplish the purpose for which the Lord sends it forth (see Isaiah 55:11). **Third**, Hebrews 4:12-13 tells us that the Bible is **a penetrating Word**. The Word of God penetrates to our deepest and innermost parts. No heart is too tough, and no soul is too dark. God’s Word can pierce anyone’s heart. On the Day of Pentecost, when Peter delivered His Spirit-anointed sermon about Jesus, Peter’s words of truth “cut” the hearers “to the heart.” Only the Word of God is able to have that kind of effect.

Fourth, Hebrews 4:12-13 tells us that the Bible is **a discerning Word**. Since God sees everything, there is no escape. Not only does He look our direction when we are in need and hurting, but He also sees all our sin and wrongdoing. The Word of God is our “critic” or “judge.” The truth in God’s Word is the standard by which every person will be judged on the Great Day when we will give an account. Since God sees everything, there is no hiding. Before God all things will be laid bare. Not only will the Word judge our outward actions and obvious attitudes – it will also judge our innermost motives and thoughts. While humans can feign sincerity to other humans, no person can fool God. Since God sees everything, there are no excuses. On the coming Day of Reckoning we will each give an account for our lives, and no excuses will be accepted. So, face things honestly and squarely now, in light of God’s Word, so that you will be prepared on that future day of accounting.

One minister said, *“I have guided my life by the Bible for more than sixty years, and I tell you there is no book like it. It is a miracle of literature, a perennial spring of wisdom, a wonder of surprises, a revelation of mystery, an infallible guide of conduct, and an unspeakable source of comfort. Pay no attention to people who discredit it, for I tell you that they speak without knowledge. It is the Word of God itself. Study it according to its own direction. Live by its principles. Believe its message. Follow its precepts. No person is uneducated who knows the Bible, and no one is wise who is ignorant of its teachings.”*

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Do you love and treasure the Bible?
2. Is the Word of God your daily bread?
3. Are you going through the Word of God? Are you allowing the Word of God to go through you?
4. Are you giving the Word of God opportunity to change and transform you?
5. Are you allowing the Word of God to judge you now, so you will be prepared for the ultimate Day of Judgment?