The Living Word for Living Men

Heb. 4:12
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• For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
Introduction

- **Word of God** = the message which God has spoken through Christ
Heb. 1:1-2

• God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;
Five things are said about the word in Heb. 4:12:

- Quick - Living
- Powerful - Active or effective
- Sharp
- Pierces
- Discerns
1. Living

• The Word of God is living – it is the Word of the living God

• The Jews recognized that the Word of God is living
Acts 7:38

- This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:
1 Pet. 1:24-25

• For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.
• It is **life** giving in its power
• **Jn. 6:68**
• “Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.”
Jn. 5:24

• Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 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.
• We are often anxious about our own personal success in the use of the Word

• God’s Word will do what He has promised it will do – it will not return to Him void
2. The Active Word

• The Word of God is active, powerful, effective
• The Greek word for powerful or active is the same word from which we get the English word “energy”
• Notice how the Bible emphasizes the power of God’s Word
Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?
For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.
But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.
Lk. 8:11

• Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.
• The Word of God continues to be effective – presenting men with its demands and encouraging men with its promises
3. The Sharp Word

• Two edged sword – was a deadly weapon of its day – cutting both ways

• This illustrates to us the sharpness of God’s Word
• It goes into the deepest parts of our own personal lives
• “It has a searching, probing, surgical power”
• It finds what is diseased in our inner man and what needs to be removed!
• NOTE – many people do not like to be disturbed in the life they are living – they do not want to be exposed in their sin so they shrink back from encountering the Word
Jn. 3:20

• For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.
• DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THE WORD OF GOD!
• It will cut out hypocrisy, sinful pride, self reliance, etc.
4. The Piercing Word

• God’s Word has a dividing operation

• Joints and marrow = refers to the innermost parts of man’s spiritual nature
• “In the case of a sincere, teachable person, it arouses godly sorrow that results in repentance.” Bob Winton
Acts 2:37

- Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
• God in His holiness and goodness confronts us in the Word
5. The Discerning Word

- **Discern** = to act as a critic or judge; that which is skilled in judging
- A judge impartially sits to weigh and evaluate what passes before him – he condemns or approves as required
• The Word of God is able to penetrate into the innermost part of the spiritual man – sifting out and analyzing the thoughts and intents of the heart
• “God’s word is able to discern blemishes and taints of sin on our innermost being. All such problems are laid open and exposed. If we learn God’s word, and then examine ourselves in the
light of its truth, we will come to see ourselves as God sees us. We can make the correction indicated, and we can be encouraged by seeing the progress we have made.” Bob Winton
Rev. 2:7

• He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.
References

• Sermons of Frank Pack, The Great Preachers of Today Series
• Outlined Commentary on Hebrews buy Bob Winton