

THE WORD: ALIVE AND AT WORK

***It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh provides no benefit; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit, and are life. John 6:63 NASB***

- ***Jesus tells us that His Words are Spirit and life...His Words are alive...His Words are 'aimed' by the Holy Spirit to our regenerated spirit to quicker new life to us and in us.***
- ***What do others have to say?***

***"The Word generates faith and regenerates us." Joseph Alleine***

***"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold on me." Martin Luther***

***"This book outlives, outloves, outlifts, outlasts, outreaches, outruns, and outranks all books. This Book is faith producing. It is hope awakening. It is death destroying, and those who embrace it find forgiveness of sin." A.Z. Conrad***

***"The Bible redirects my will, cleanses my emotions, enlightens my mind, and quickens my total being." E. Stanley Jones***

***"God's Word is the instrument by which God's Spirit transforms the Christian." Robert M. Horn***

***"God did not write a book and send it by messenger to be read at a distance by unaided minds. He spoke a Book***

***4 Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. <sup>2</sup> For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. <sup>3</sup> For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said "AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY***

***and lives in His spoken words, constantly speaking His words and causing the power of them to persist across the years." A. W. Tozer***

***"God is not silent. It is the nature of God to speak. The second person of the Holy Trinity is called 'The Word'. The Bible is the inevitable outcome of God's continuous speech. It is the infallible declaration of His mind." A. W. Tozer***

***"Many books in my library are now behind and beneath me. They were good in their way once, and so were the clothes I wore when I was ten years old; but I have outgrown them. Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years." C. H. Spurgeon***

***"The greatest proof that the Bible is inspired is that it has stood so much bad preaching. A. T. Robertson***

THE WORD: ALIVE AND AT WORK

***REST," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world. <sup>4</sup> For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: "AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS"; <sup>5</sup> and again in this passage, "THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST." <sup>6</sup> Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS. HEBREWS 4:1-7 NASB***

***<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. HEBREWS 4:12-16 NASB***

- ***Jesus' work in winning our Salvation is finished...***
  - ***We enter His rest when we believe in that finished work and quit trying to work our way into acceptance by Him.***
  - ***Disobedience, or refusing to believe in the finished work of Jesus will produce the same 'wilderness wanderings' that Israel experienced.***
  - ***We are to be diligent to enter His rest...trusting what Jesus has done on our behalf.***
  - ***Jesus' work for our salvation is finished but His work in us for transformation is constantly ongoing through His Spirit and His Word.***

***For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart. HEBREWS 4:12 AMPC***

THE WORD: ALIVE AND AT WORK

***[<sup>1</sup>For] God's word is alive and ·working [active; powerful; effective] and is sharper than a double-edged sword. It ·cuts all the way into us, where the soul and the spirit are joined, to the center of our joints and bones [<sup>1</sup>penetrates until it divides even soul and spirit, joints and marrow]. And it ·judges [discerns] the ·thoughts [ideas] and ·feelings [attitudes; intentions] in our hearts. HEBREWS 4:12 EXB***

- ***The Word of God is alive...living. (Hebrews 4:12)***
  - ***"For living is the Word of God and energetic..." Rotherham***
  - ***..."full of life and power." Weymouth***
  - ***"Alive and full of power in action." Williams***
  - ***The Word is living as it pertains to its nature and operational regarding the work it does in us. The Word is not just a record of historical events!***
  - ***..."the Word is full of power making, active, operative, energizing, and effective." Amplified Bible***
  - ***His Words are Spirit and life. (John 6:63)***

***And we also thank God continually for this, that when you received the word of God [concerning salvation] which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of [mere] men, but as it truly is, the word of God, which is effectually at work in you who believe [exercising its inherent, supernatural power in those of faith]. I Thessalonians 2:13 AMP***

- ***The Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword. (Hebrews 4:12)***
  - ***Sword...a knife (20-24 inches long), a slaughter knife; a smaller knife-like sword used for cutting (same word as Ephesians 6:17) – 'sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. (Not the same as Revelation 1:16)***
  - ***If the words people speak to you can cut, impact, and penetrate your heart, what can God's Words do in you?***
- ***The Word...'piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.'***
  - ***...'it strikes the place where soul and spirit meet...' Phillips***
  - ***...'to the innermost intimacies of a man's being.' Phillips***
  - ***A sifter and an analyzer of the reflections and conceptions of the heart...Wuest***

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***"I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds. Jeremiah 17:10 NASB***

- ***The Word of God... 'goes to the innermost recesses of our spiritual being and brings the subconscious motives to light. F.F. Bruce***
- ***The Word empowers us to a place of balance. ("A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight." Proverbs 11:1)***
- ***The two-edged sword removes what is excessive and harmful and strengthens what is true and real.***
- ***The Holy Spirit uses the Word to 'rightly divide' us so we can rightly divide the Word.***
- ***When the Word is doing its work in us we can better discern between God speaking to us and our own emotions, desires, imaginations, and impulses.***
- ***Jesus is our High Priest.***
  - ***His Word rightly divides and 'opens up' our lives as living sacrifices.***
  - ***He knows our temptations and sinful tendencies and blind spots.***
  - ***He skillfully sends His Word to get the truth in us as we 'get ourselves in the Word'.***
  - ***He reveals all sorts of truth to us so we can grow and change.***
  - ***He reveals things that are true about us that stumble us and keep us from growing and being transformed.***

***Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts. Jeremiah 15:16 NASB***

- ***Our response to His Word is a key to our identity...we are called by His name!***

***So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11 NASB***

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- ***God's plan is to send His Word and work in you and see it 'succeed' in you...you will not be empty!***