



The Power of God in Words!

Do you know some words that meant something to you or changed your life in some way?

- ✓ *“Gerald, your dad was killed today!*
- ✓ *“Sat down Gerald, the coaches think you need to make some changes in your short-term goals in life. We need you to start concentrating on your track skills instead of spending your time as a basketball player. We think you will have a better chance for an Athletic scholarship if you spend your time, your effort, your whole heart in that sport than try to play basketball and run track at the same time. Pole vaulting only comes through practice, practice, practice. Averaging 4-6 points per game in basketball is not going to catch the eye of any coach. Your track skills will...but it will take all the concentration and work you have in you to make it through district, regional and state.”*
- ✓ *“Gerald...you may now kiss your bride!”*

As important and life changing those words were, nothing has meant more to me than the Word of God...that penetrates body, mind, soul, and spirit. “The Word of God has made its way into our being...it’s ever present before us...and it is such that it cannot be disregarded.”

The Word is not only a sound with a certain meaning; it was and is a power that goes out and does things.

The Word that comes from the mouth of God is always effective (The Word of God will always do whatever He designed it to do). Isaiah 45:23, “...I will never go back on My word.”

Hebrews 4:12-13, “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The Word of God, according to the writer of Hebrews is a series of great phrases:

- **The Word of God...is always alive,
It is a living issue for all people at all times.
Other things and words of great philosophers, individuals will come and go...But the Word of God is something that everyone must face and make a decision...IT IS AN OFFER THAT WE MUST ACCEPT OR REJECT.**

- **The Word of God...is effective,**
When people start to take the Word of God seriously...they immediately realize that His Word is not only something to be studied, something to be read, something to be written about, But...It is something to be done (Active).
- **The Word of God...is penetrating,**
 - ✓ *Penetrates the soul and spirit and divides it...Penetrates the joints and marrow and divides it...*
 - ✓ *Even Penetrates the Soul and Spirit...distinction between man and animals. Greek (Psuche/...soul) and (pneuma...spirit).*
 - ✓ *It is by the Spirit that we look beyond the physical and look to God. We accept or reject....and the Word of God has that power to cause us to make the decision.*
 - ✓ *The Word of God is so powerful that it scrutinizes our desires and our intentions...to the heart of the matter.*
- **The Word of God...judges our thoughts and actions.**
We are naked (laid bare) before the Lord. He sees us as we are!

This is not just a negative phrase....causing us to fear Him. It is phrase that helps us to see that God is in our corner and knows where we are, what we are needing Him for, and why we are in the position that we are in...in which we are calling on Him. He is there, here, and with...you and me.

The Challenge...Give in to the Master of our soul and spirit!

The Word of God Preached and Taught

Expository preaching has fallen on hard times. Many are saying that people who are used to television and other modern media cannot handle a 40-minute sermon. Sadly, many pastors are heeding that advice. "Seeker" churches advocate 15-minute talks built around some felt need, accompanied by short dramas to hold people's attention. They say that we should never mention sin or state that someone is a "Sinner who commits certain sins...or anything else that will make anyone feel uncomfortable!" That it is "rude and unbecoming for one church member to point out the actions (good or bad) of another." **The aim is to make everyone feel good in church.**

Please note: That approach to ministry is an inherent denial of the power of God's Word to convert sinners and build up God's people by exposing our sin and pointing to God's grace at the cross.

"History" contains numerous testimonies to the power of God's Word. Without reading some of the testimonies of such as to the power of God's Word, I want to help you see that "your history" should be one that exhibits the POWER OF GOD.

Your salvation, your walk with God, your falling face down at the altar knowing that the Word of God PENETRATED YOUR SPIRIT VIA THE WORD OF GOD proves God's love for you...proves the "truth" for you.

Hebrews 4:12-13 is one of the great biblical texts on the power of God's Word. The author in previous verses had been warning the Hebrew church of the danger of cultural Christianity. His text had been Psalm 95, which refers to the tragic example of Israel in the wilderness. Although they had come out of Egypt by applying the Passover blood, had come through the Red Sea, and had been sustained in the wilderness by God's provision of water and manna, they did not trust God ***nor obey His Word***. As a result, they failed to enter God's rest, which was a picture of salvation.

We should not follow their (Israelites) example of disobedience to the Word. It will do a powerful work in our hearts if:

- ***We hear it,***
- ***Allow it to expose our sin, and***
- ***Obey it.***

Since God sees and knows everything, including our very thoughts, we would be foolish to disobey His life-giving Word. To do so would only bring certain judgment.

Because God's Word is powerful to expose our sin and God Himself sees everything, we must be diligent to have our hearts right before Him.

In this context, "The Word of God" refers to all of God's spoken revelation, including that which came through His Son.

- ✓ ***We have it recorded in written form in the Scriptures.***
- ✓ ***If we heed God's Word, it will keep us from the cultural religion that brings sure judgment from God.***
- ✓ ***The author is extolling the power of God's Word to bring us into a personal experience of His rest, or salvation.***

God's Word is powerful to expose our sin (4:12).

Since God is the living God (3:12), and His Word cannot be separated from Him, that Word is a living Word. It can never be exterminated.

As Isaiah 40:8 proclaims, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."

Since God is the author of life, His living Word imparts life in two ways.

1). GOD'S WORD IMPARTS NEW LIFE TO DEAD SINNERS.

- **Because of sin, we all enter this world dead in trespasses and sins, alienated from God (Eph. 2:1; 2:12)** "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,"... "remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world."
- **A dead sinner can no more will himself into spiritual life than a dead corpse can will himself into physical life.**
- **But God is pleased to use His Word to impart new life to dead sinners.** James 1:18 states, "In the exercise of His will [not our will] He brought us forth by the word of truth

...” *1 Peter 1:23* says, “for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.”

NOTE: If you want to see sinners converted, get them to read and listen to God’s Word. John (20:31) stated very plainly his purpose in writing his gospel: “...these [signs] have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

2). GOD’S WORD IMPARTS RENEWED LIFE TO HIS SAINTS.

- **All of us that have known God’s salvation for a while have gone through dry times when God seemed distant. God uses His Word to renew and revive us.** David wrote, “The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul” (Ps. 19:7).
- **The entire 176 verses of Psalm 119 extol the benefits of God’s Word.** Repeatedly the psalmist cries out, “My soul cleaves to the dust; revive me according to Your word” (119:25). “This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your word has revived me” (119:50).
- **It only makes sense that if the living God, has spoken to us in His written Word, then we should seek it like a treasure and devour it as a hungry man devours a meal.**

The Bible is a dangerous book! It will cut you and me! When it makes your conscience go, “Ow!”...don’t harden your heart. Let God do surgery by cutting out the cancer of sin that the Word has revealed.

Conclusion/Summary:

Five (5) Thoughts to Take Home With Us!

(1) Treasure God’s Word above all worldly counsel

(2) Read, study, memorize, and meditate on God’s Word.

(3) Apply, trust, and obey God’s Word.

✓ **The point of Bible study is not to fill your head with knowledge about the end times or theological arguments to support your favorite views.**

✓ **It is to change your heart and life! Always study it with a view towards obedience.**

(4) Live with your heart exposed to God’s Word.

✓ **Do not cover up any sinful thoughts. If the Word convicts you, stop and confess the matter to God. If need be, resolve to go to anyone you have wronged and ask forgiveness.**

✓ **Remember, God knows every sinful thought you will ever have, and He still sent His Son to bear the penalty of your sin!**

(5) Drink in all of the biblical preaching you can absorb.

God’s Word is worth repeating! Therefore (as the writer of Hebrews would say)... “Share the Word of God with family, friends, and YOUR SELF.”

