

Title: The Power of the Word

Text: Hebrews 4:12-13

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to the book of Hebrews. Hebrews chapter 4 and beginning with verse 12'

Last week was an exciting week because we got out off the wilderness. Hopefully you are out. And last week we indicated in our study of this book that the interpretation of what the "rest" is in Hebrews 4 is "one central thought with two parts. The central thought is found in Vs 10 "for the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from his." This is not talking about christian victory as through our works are bad because God's work isn't bad. The rest under discussion is salvation. And it ultimate reward is certainly heavenly rest. So, Vs 11, when it says "let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest." It would be the rest into which Vs 10 says "He" who would be "Christ" has entered into. "US" would refer to the ones to whom he was writing including himself. "THEM" or "THEY" refers to the children of Israel in the wilderness. But "HE" who entered into his rest is "CHRIST." And that is proven in Vs 14 where it says, "SINCE then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession." The content is indicating a heavenly rest. And ultimate reward to those who believe in Christ. Or, as Vs 3 says, "for we who have believed enter that rest."

Revelation 14:13 indicates that it could also refer to "death" for it says "blessed are the dead who die in the Lord that they may rest from their labors."

But that death ushers us into the presence of the Lord. And for my own sake, I believe the best view of this whole chapter is that the "rest" is "salvation." And if you believe you have that rest, and it ultimate reward is "heaven." And that is where Christ has gone. And so the exhortation is for all of us to enter that rest less some of us fall after the same unbelief that was characteristic of the Jews in the wilderness.

~~the same as before that was characteristic of the Jews in the wilderness~~

So, then we see the application as it is made in chapter 4.

Now, Vs 12 does not introduce a new subject. It merely points out to us the thing we must believe. Vs 12 and 13 are the verses I want you to look at today under the topic: THE POWER OF THE WORD.

(Read 4:12-13)

Let's Prayer

Father, we once again want to Praise you and thank you and honor you for your Word, which you yourself have stated that you honor above your name. We thank you for this book. And as we study from it this day, we pray Father that you, ~~by~~ the Spirit, would cause the mind of everyone here to have assurance and confidence in that which is said concerning the written revelation of God.

We pray for those in our midst today who are without assurance of their relationship to God. Who do not know that if they were to die in this moment that they would be with you in heaven. Father, we pray that you would bring them assurance of your Word today. And they might place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.....We thank you for this in Jesus name.....Amen.

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(1E) As we look at the power of the Word in these two verses, I remind you again of the overall context. We are examining the authority of Jesus Christ over everything. And in particular we are looking at his authority over Moses and the house of Israel.

And thus we come to the Power of the God and its relationship to Moses. When we think of Moses we ~~not~~ unusually think of the Law and the 10 commandments. ~~And~~ when we think of Christ we usually think of "Grace" or the "N.T."

~~that~~ All of the Bible is the Word of God. It is God's Word to us. All of it is important to our lives.

The O.T. was a complete revelation of the eternal God. So was Jesus in bodily form. And so was the N.T. All of it is "God's Hly Word." And in these two verse we have, perhaps, as some have ~~is~~ said, "the classic text" on the power and true nature of God's Word. Therefore, I would urge your careful attention this morrowing. For we have here a tremendous portion of scripture....

(1F) We are going to examine, first of all, a <sup>discription</sup> ~~discription~~ of <sup>this</sup> ~~this~~ Word of God. And in this ~~and~~ discription as found in Vs 12, we have three basic concepts.

(1G) First of all, the Word is discripted as "being Living."

If you were translating Vs 12 literally, the word "living" would come first. It doesn't come after the phrase "for the word of God". But it comes "first," in the order of the Greek sentence.

It would read like this: "Living is the Word of God." And the word "living" in this position would indicate its importance. Thus, in this form we have stated an expression of God's own life.

One of the amazing things about this book is that you can not treat it like any other literature. I wish I could say that to you. And there are a lot of people who want to believe that. But it is not ture. This book, called the Bible, is not the same as other literature. Even the finest literature conceived in the history of the World is not to be compared with this book. It is a unique. It is one of its kind. There is not <sup>another</sup> book like it. And I am not just referring to its historical accuracy. I am not simplely refering to its structure. Or, its message and contents. I am telling you that there is something extremely unique about this book.....LIVING.....IS.....THE WORD.....

Hebrews refers to the living God. In Acts chapter 7:38, Stephen, the first Christian martyr, referred to the Law of Moses as "living oracles."

In I Peter 1;23 it says of the Bible that it is the word of God which "lives and abides for ever!" *Living is the Word*

Now, some people whould say that the statement "living is the Word" is just the fact that it exist.....

Then, all books could be in the same frame of reference. All books simply exist. That is not the meaning of the word. It is really an expression of God's <sup>Living</sup> own life. God is life. John wrote about Jesus and said "in him is life." God's life in some amazing and miracelous way is in the Word of God. ~~The Word~~ The expression and revelation of God is found written in the Bible. [That is a heavey statement. And if you are a student you will take that and chew on it for a long time. ~~This~~ This book is God's life. It claims to have the same power as God's life. It can go amazing things. It is living. And it can change lives. I believe that anyone, who can read, can take this book and discover for himself the living God and his life can be changed. And this happens when we put our faith in the God of this book. <sup>That</sup> reveals. —

Now, here is a problem that a lot of people have. Does this mean when I put my faith in ~~the~~ God of this book that then it becomes living? Or, does it mean that it is already living? regardless of what I do with it? The later of the two statements is true. The Word of God is living. Not living if you believe it and then it becomes living to you.

By the way, that is taught in many churches. But that is not what it says. It is not saying because you believe it, therefroee, it becomes a live. Paul wrote in Romans 1:16 that in the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes.

And I believe this book can operate independtent of me. I am not necessary to make this God's Word. It already is God's Word. And has power to change lives....

Many of us lightly regard what we wholed in our hands and call the Bibl This is living. It is an expression of God's own life. It is a revelation of the eternal God, himself...

(2G) Now, the second word used to discripe this ~~the~~ book is the word "activ  
We get our word "engery". ~~This~~ simple meaning, here, is "that it accomphishes things." This book is not simple without results. Some people believe it depends on what you do with it in order to have results.

Oh, No, the Bible cause the results. It is active. It accomplishes things. For example, Isaiah 55:11 says "God's word will not return void. It will accomplish the things for which he sent it."

It is an amazing book. It actually carries out the will of God. Why do you think that there are people who ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> committed to the translation of this book in all languages? Why? Why not just put it on tape? Why are we committed <sup>to</sup> putting Bible into the language of people?

Because <sup>the</sup> ~~we~~ people, thank God, who believe it is God's Word and it is active in and of itself. And that if you can get this scripture into some bodies language, it has the power, in and of itself, to accomplish the results. And history is a constant stream of proof to that. You can see throughout history that that statement is proven. The Word of God can even change an entire culture and nation.

(3G) Number three. in Vs 12, it says that the Bible is not only living and active, but it is sharper than any two-edged sword.

Literally, sharper "above". Its supremacy is being exalted. Sharper "above any or every two-edged," which is simply the word "mouth" two-mouthed sword. It is important to see the root word. I do believe it refers to a two-edged sword. The Romans used a doubled edged sword. But the root word "two-mouthed" It speaks two ways, is the idea. And I hope that will help you in interpret this verse.

Because it says that this two-edged or two-mouthed sword that speaks two ways pierces as far as the division of soul and spirit and joints and marrow..

The sword is a very common symbol of Gods word. Isaiah 49:2 says "He has made my mouth like a sharp sword."

Revelation 1:16 concerning the vision that John had of Jesus Christ. It says "Out of his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword."

In Revelation 19:15 when Christ comes back from heaven in all of his power and glory, it says "that out of his mouth goes ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> sharp sword to smit the nations."

Now, what is it that will do all of this? God's Word....Now, listen to me carefully. I do not want to be misunderstood on this.....I don't want to seem wired or mystically. I want to state what I believe the Bible teaches about itself....

When God created the worlds, the Bible says He spoke and it happened. That is exactly what it says. God said, "let there be light and there was light." I believe that is exactly the way it happened. Therefore, how did light come into being? Answer: by the direct spoken Word of God...

He spoke it, and it happened.....

When God created the animals and the plants...He spoke...and it happened. People say, No, he probable created over a long period of time..... Oh, no.....they were all in a mature adult forms cable of reproduction... Everything that God created was in adult mature forms.....Put that in your evolution hat and sit on it.....

And it all happened when God spoke.....Now, that is...the...Word... of...God....God's Word.

So, concerning the Messiah who is going to come back, the Bible says that out of his mouth goes the Word which is like a sharp two-edge sword. He is going to distroy the nations of the world. And many people believe it will be a great battle with weapons, and air-power, and tanks, etc.

Listen, our exalted Lord is above that. The Bible says he will slay the nations by His Word....The Word of his moth.....

Be gone Russia.....(ha) We laugh. But that is what it say

Now, here is the hard part.....God tells us over and over again that that same thing is right here in the written pages of this book. But that is at the point where we have our suggle isn't it?.....

You see, this is God's Word. Just as powerful, just as real, just as <sup>Living</sup> ~~moving~~, just as active, as the very word when he spoke the worlds into existence. It is the same word. And it is ~~in~~ this book.....

And there is not another book in the world that can compare with it. No matter what some people try to say...And it will accomplish results without your help or mine..... *in trying to make it effective.*

It already is effective. And it has tremendous power contained in and of itself...

Then, some people say, "you are talking about the content."...Yes.... but more than that. Because the Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:16 that every writing, is God breathed. Now watch this carefully.

The Bible teaches that there are several things which are the product of God's creative breath.

The Bible says that the entire universe is the result of God's breath. The Bible says that man is the result of God's breath. He took us out of the dust of the ground and breathed into us the breath of life and man became a living soul. Man is the product of God's breath.

The scriptures are the ~~the~~ product of God's breath. God's life is involved. God's Word is involved. Jesus was God's Word. God's life in a physical body and therefore is called "The Word." The Word is also in the scriptures, written. And these scriptures ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> God's light, God's Word. They have tremendous power to change your life and mine. It is Living, Active

and sharper than any two-edged sword.

And the next statement says, in Vs 12, that <sup>d</sup> it will pierce." Pierce to the dividing point. And that is the key. Peirceing... ~~A two-edged sword~~ A two-edged sword that is going to pierce. What does it mean "to pierce?"

The word "pierce" means "to go through something." It is used in the sense of "penetrating." Now, watch how you think here.

I looked and looked for an illustration of this and came up with a wired one. But here it is.

Turn to the book of Exodus chapter 26. We are trying to understand what the word "pierce" means. In English we can visualize the sword pierceing. But there is a little depth here that I want you to see, in trying to understand what it is to pierce as far as the division of soul and spirit.

Now, before we look at Exdus 26, let's fact it. If you and I are reading that verse in English here is what we would think it means.

We mean the sword, two-edged, can cut and separate the soul from the spirit and separate joints from marrow. That is what we think. There is only one problem with that. Because as anyone with basic knowledge of ~~the~~ physiology knows you cannot just cut the joints from the marrow.....Now stop and think about that.....It is not saying "from". It is piercing to.....where soul and spirit are divided. ~~Just think a memor~~

Exodus 26:28....stay with the illustration....This is dealing with the construction of the tabernacle....Vs 28 says, "And the middle bar in the center of the boards shall pass through from end to end."

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Isn't that a great verse. Boy that is one you could memorize and it would change your life.....(ha)....You can go home and say the Pastor was really with it today...."the middle bar in the center of the boards shall pass through from end to end."

Now, that little phrase "shall pass through" in the Greek O.T. is the same word translated "pierce" in Hebrews 4. Now what does that middle bar do with those boards?

When you set up those boards; and they are around the side of the Holy of Holy place. They had a middle board to brace them so that they would not bow out.....They had little ring ~~at the top~~ so that they could put a bar through them. But the boards were so tall, 20 feet, they were so tall that they needed a board, a bar to go through it, to hold them together....That bar actual penetrated completely through each of those boards.....

*of the Word the Word is God*

*Something*

Now, come back to Hebrews 4, ~~it~~ penetrates completely through ~~them~~. It didn't separate anything from anything else. It just penetrated them. Which is the root meaning of the word.."to go through something."

(2F) *This brings us*  
~~So, in Hebrew 4 we come~~ to the second major point. We talk, first, about a Description of the Word. It was living. It was active. And it was sharper than any two edged sword.

Now, let's look at the division it makes. How it peirces...It pierces in two ways, we are told in Hebres 4:12.



(1G) One, it pierce to the division of soul and spirit. And two(2G) it  
peirce to the division of joints and marrow.

Now, the idea of piercing or penetrtrng, going through, is literally the idea of going through from front to back . Like, here is a board, and I am putting something through it. Not that I cut it and separate it into pieces. But that I went through it....

So, we have the idea of penetration....Or..if you like this better.. the idea of "EXPOSING"...."Exposing." The point is: that the Word of God has so much power that it penetrates your life and mine in terms of exposing.

It is powerful what is being said here. THE WORD OF GOD.... So, do you know where Satan's major attack would be, if he wanted to keep you from being a Spirit filled, victorious, fruitful christain? Do you know where his basic attack would be?.....It would be to keep you away from this book.....DO YOU SEE....It is a simple little thing.....But the major attack of Satan is to keep you away from the Bible.

He will even get you involved in many worth whiled activities. Things that are in the eyes of people fine and good and wonderful. Great things which will keep you away from personal involvement in this book. Because he knows better than me, that it is God' Word. [It is living....it is active. It is sharper than a two edged sword. And it can expose and penetrate into your life and show you what is wrong. And of course Satan doesn't want that to happen. He wants you to say away from this book. Boy, it is amazing what is really being said in this text.

(3F) <sup>Third</sup> Then, look at the discernment that the Bible gives us. This is the last phrase of Vs 12....We are told that the Word of God is a discerner or a judge in two areas....of my life.....Two areas...

(1G) One, my thoughts.... <sup>(2G)</sup> Two, my intentions..... The first word has to do with my ~~low~~ inward ideas, my passions. Sometimes it refers to my inward reasoning. But, usually it refers to evil thinking. <sup>Evil F.L. Thinking or Satan's Thinking</sup> The passions and desires that are within me which <sup>results in that which is against God</sup> ~~are~~ ~~evil~~.....The Bible says that the Word of God has the power to expose that. And to show you whether those thoughts are right or wrong.....

or discern

(26) And the second area that the Word is able to judge is the intentions of the heart. And this always denotes purpose or design. The motives ~~of~~<sup>of</sup> my heart. I want to know the motives of my heart. And I can really know them. No matter how much interspection.....or analysation I might go through Motivations are judged by the power of God's Word. God's Word can tell you why you are doing what you are doing. It can clear it up. ©

God's Word can clear it up as to whether your thoughts and inward reasonings are right or they are wrong. God's Word has the power to do that.

(47) And then look at Vs 13 concerning the display of all things that is accomplished by the Word.

It is ~~not~~<sup>No</sup> wonder we don't want to study the Word. We don't like what we are going to see. In Vs 13 there are three things that tell us how God will display all things in your life. Three little words.....

(10) The first word is the word "Manifest" or "Hidden from His sight"  
Vs 13 says that there is no creature hidden from his sight. That is talking about the greatness of God that is contained in his Word. There is nothing. ~~nothing~~ nothing....that is outside of His knowledge. God knows everything we think and feel in the deep recesses of our hearts.

And according to the Bible all of that knowledge is recorded here.

Do You want to know what God knows about you? You can find out. You can read the book. And find out what God knows about you that not even your best friends will tell you.....But God will tell you. [ Do you know what I usually do when I see those things....It is funny....The first thought that comes into my mind is to get away from that conviction....So, here is how I ususally do it. I mean, how a preacher does it, you see. Studying the Bible and something just hits you between the eyes and you know you are all wiped out.....So, here is what I ususally ~~do~~ (Maybe you do it also).. You know, there must be another interprtation....(ha)..That is what you usually do.....

Another things must people do is a little bit more wicked....You ususally say: "Boy, I know someone like that".....(ha).....

And we don't like what the book says.....People ask me all the time: "Is this the word of God?".....Oh, listen, it has to be the Word ~~of~~ God. It has to be.....No one in the world would expose you like this book does. No one in the world would tell you exactly what is wrong with you like this book does.....I know why people don't study the Bible, <sup>or bring your Bible to church</sup> The root of the problem is that they don't like it because it really tells you what is wrong in your life.....

And Vs 13 is telling us that we cannot hide from God. No matter who you <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~. You cannot hide from this Book. It will expose you <sup>for</sup> what you are. In every situation, no matter what it is, it tells it just like it is. And you can't hide from it.

So, why do we run around trying to judge one another and wasting our time.....Just relax....Get into the Book.....<sup>daily as a habit of life -</sup>

(26) And secondly, it is Nakad(KJ) or Laid bare (NAS). Clothes always hide the physical body. And it began with an effort to hide from God. Which is the root of all morality of course. The existence and nature of God. When Adam and Eve sinned, it says in Genesis 3:7, the eyes of both of them were opened and they knew that they were natked and they sewed fig leaves

together and they made themselves coverings.....And Vs 8 of Genesis 3 says  
\*that Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God.<sup>h</sup> What  
a joke....Trying to hide from an infinite God. *Drinking  
S of Non-Believers*

But, some of us are doing the same thing. And the Bible says that it  
will not let you put clothes on. It will expose you naked before a Holy God.  
Striped of all your little goodies....Such as: nice home...good reputation..  
good job....good person in community....and so forth....Listen, the Bible  
just stripes you of all of that and just leaves you naked before a Holy God.  
The Bible says that one ~~day~~<sup>we</sup> will stand before God. And all unbelievers will  
stand before God at what is called the Great White Throne Judgement. And  
there will be no chance there to try and ~~trick~~<sup>trick</sup> God. Or, to tell him that  
something was so, and we know it wasn't. ....To try and hide the truth from  
God, God who knows all things, who knows you better than you know yourself.  
Why, you can't even hide what you don't even know about yourself. He knows  
everything.....

*(36)* The third word is the word "open"<sup>Vs 13</sup>....Open to the eyes of him....All  
things are open to him....Nothing is hide....Our complete life is open  
before the ~~eyes~~ eyes of all mighty God.

But, you know dear firends, after ~~I~~ see this text and I realize~~ed~~  
how often God exposes me and the sinnfulness and wickness of my life, then  
to realize that this same word which exposes me, also provides the answer.  
For it is a blessing to come to a passage like I John 1:7 were it says the  
blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.....Everything....All of  
this that the word exposes is cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ....  
Praise God....I am clean, positionally....My standing before God....I am  
clean....Don't you think I love God ~~for it?~~<sup>because of it?</sup> I didn't love him befor it....

It is because of what he has done. It is because he loved me that I  
love him....I wouldn't waste my time preaching and teaching this book, if  
it wansn't for His cleansing power.....

Who wants to just be exposed?....We need to be exposed....But the  
solution is also there....This book which exposes you is living and it can  
~~bring life~~

bring life to you. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the message about Christ. And when you learn about Jesus, and how he died for you, you praise God that everthing the book exposes, the blood of Jesus wipes away. "Behold the lamb of God <sup>who</sup> takes away the sin of the world....."

Let us pray