

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

GOD'S WORD . . .

Hebrews 4:12 "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."

Books are created with the penning of words. In them words are crafted together to form sentences, paragraphs, chapters, convey ideas, provide information, shape attitudes, etc. Today's devotional verse enlightens you regarding God's word.

The writer begins this verse stating that God's word is alive and active. The grammar makes these words even stronger because the verb tense indicates that His word is always present and constantly active. It is an alive word, that is it gives life to those who read and hear it. The writer also says it is active. This word comes from the Greek word energes from which we get the English word energy. In other words, God's word energizes. The picture that comes to my mind is the advertisement for Energizer batteries and the slogan associated with the rabbit, "it just keeps going, and going and going."

The word of God is like a double-edged sword that penetrates deeply when thrust into your heart. God's word penetrates beyond the facades you create, your lack of insincerity and surface level faith in Jesus. It creates a heart faith in Him. His word creates the glue that bonds your heart, mind, soul, and spirit to Jesus who alone is the way and provides the truth through which God gives you a life that will never end.

God's word of Law is like a mirror that accurately and completely reflects back to you who you really are, what you truly think, and what you have done. It never glosses over sin, but points it out and shows you your need for Jesus' shed blood to cleanse you of your sins. It thoroughly examines your thoughts, words, and most important intentions. It lays bare your self-delusion.

Jesus says you are blessed when you "hear the word of God and keep it." (Matthew 11:28) He says through His words He gives you, you are "full of spirit and life." (John 6:63) John says, "and (by) the word of God (that) lives in you. . .you

have overcome the evil one.” Isaiah says God’s word endures forever and (Isaiah 40:8) will accomplish God’s purpose for which He has given it. (Isaiah 55:11)

Prayer: Bless, O Lord, Your Word that it accomplishes Your purpose in my heart, mind, soul, and spirit for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word We are gathered all to hear You
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy, Drawn from earth to love You solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night With the beams of truth unclouded
You alone to God can win us; You must work all good within us.

Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind; Help us by Your Spirit’s pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises; Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord, Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word, Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, Till we sing Your praises yonder.
(LSB 904)