

# WEEKLY ENCOURAGEMENT

from Johnny Hunt

## THE GIFT OF HIS WORD

### PART TWO

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12-13

#### I. INTRO

- Griffith Thomas says that all of the Bible deserves our careful consideration, our constant meditation and a complete application to our lives.
- God gave us His Word not just as knowledge to accumulate, but as truth to obey.
- The writer of Hebrews was concerned that we see the importance of the Word of God. The first four chapters deal with the supreme Word of God. When God speaks, whether through the written Word in the Bible, or in Jesus, the living Word, it is different from the words of man.
- In **Hebrews 4:12-13**, the inspired writer describes graphically the difference between God's Word and all other words. All through this book the believer is exhorted to give attention to the Word of God.

#### II. THE BIBLE IS A POWERFUL BOOK (*continued*) | VERSE 12

##### B. IT IS ACTIVE

- **“powerful”**—The word in this context means, “effective.” It is one of the facts of history that wherever man has taken God's Word seriously, things happen. When people take God seriously, they immediately realize that His Word is not only something to be studied, not only something to be read, not only something to be written about; it is something to be done.
- It will energize a life, a church and a nation. It brings life where there is death. It brings activity where there has been inactivity. “Powerful” really means productive. The Bible doesn't just lead to a productive or powerful life, but it also leads to a productive or powerful ministry.
- **Psalm 119:7**  
**“I will praise You with uprightness of heart,  
When I learn Your righteous judgments.”**
- It does something to those who hear and heed it. **God's Word not only enlightens the mind, but it also alters conduct.**
- It's active in that the Word possesses the power to affect its own speech. It possesses an energizing power that renders it always effective in accomplishing its purpose. It will not return void but will accomplish God's purpose.
- **Isaiah 55:10-11**  
**“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,  
And do not return there,  
But water the earth,  
And make it bring forth and bud,  
That it may give seed to the sower  
And bread to the eater,  
So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;  
It shall not return to Me void,  
But it shall accomplish what I please,  
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”**
- **NOTE:** Anything the Word of God touches, and that a person receives in their heart, it changes their very nature.

#### III. THE BIBLE IS A PIERCING BOOK | VERSE 12

##### A. IT IS A SHARP WORD

- **“sharper than any two-edged sword”**—it cuts the heart of sinners with conviction.

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- When Stephen preached the gospel in **Acts 7**, note:

- **Acts 7:54: “When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.”**

- One of two things will happen when hearing God’s Word: people normally get mad or glad.

- The Word of God tests a man’s earthly life and his spiritual existence.

## B. IT IS A SEPARATING WORD

- **“piercing”**—to go through; the Word of God scrutinizes a man’s desires and intentions. It deals with the emotional part and intellectual part of man. Both must be submitted to the scrutiny of God. As it penetrates, our hearts are exposed, and if we trust God, the Word enables our hearts to obey God and claim His promises. It is able to penetrate to the depths of the soul and spirit.

- The Holy Spirit is the surgeon, and the Word of God is His scalpel. He sees the hidden sin, declension of heart, our unbelief, our secrets, our waywardness and yet He still loves us!

- Some believe Luke wrote **Hebrews** because he was a doctor, a surgeon.

## IV. THE BIBLE IS A PROBING BOOK | VERSE 12

- **“discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”**—critic; to judge, to sift, and to analyze. The Word of God probes into the inner recesses of our being and explores all our motives. God’s Word illuminated the dark corners of my life. All disguises will be ripped off and only the real person will be seen. God knows us inside and out.

- The Bible is filled with diagnostic perception.

## V. THE BIBLE IS PERSONAL | VERSE 13

- The Bible speaks directly to you. The Bible will show me, *me*. The overall context is a picture of total exposure and utter defenselessness. In this passage we see the Word of God bringing us to the **“eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”** We move from the written Word to the living Word; the personification of the Word.

- The preached word should confront us with the Living Word.

- **The Bible leaves us “naked.” God wants to use this to make us aware of His grace and how much we need Him.**