

For the Word of God Is...
By Trey Sullins

Did you know that we have access to the most powerful book the world has ever seen? Of course, this book is the Bible. Within its pages it proves itself to be a true and holy book from God. In Hebrews 4:12, we find a great passage revealing some of the many great qualities of the book.

The word of God is living. The meaning here is that the Bible is still effective today. This passage does not mean that the Bible can or will change. The Bible is living because it is from the living God (Matthew 22:32). The Bible was given by the living God therefore, it must be living (2 Timothy 3:16). It is also living because it brings life to those who use it properly and obey the commands found in it (Ephesians 2:1). All throughout history books and laws have come and gone, but the word of God remains just as true and effective as it was when it was written.

The word of God is powerful. The meaning here is that the word of God has a great ability to change and work in the lives of people. Evidence of this is seen in the original word used here “energēs.” It is a root from where we get our words “energy” and “energetic.” It is power also comes in the fact that no one can stop this great energy it has. Paul in 2 Timothy 2:9, reveals to us that even through the attacks of the world the Bible “is not chained.” Just consider how many people have completely turned their lives around because of the words of God found in its pages. One of the greatest examples of this is Paul in 1 Timothy 1:15. A man who “tried to destroy” (Galatians 1:13) the church of God, but later became one of its greatest workers. This same man was changed by the words of God so much that he is one of the writers who records those same words for us to live by today.

The word of God sharp. The wording of the original text indicates that something that is so sharp that there is nothing it cannot cut. Remember why the word of God is so sharp: it was designed and breathed out by God! Ephesians 6:17 calls it the “sword of the Spirit” for this very reason! Consider how there is no person that is too smart, dumb, sinful, prideful, or anything else for the word of God to affect them.

The word of God is piercing. The word piercing means to “go through” or “penetrate.” The imagery here is like a sword or knife stabbing straight into something. In Acts 2:37 we find a passage which shows us just how sharp it is. Peter just convicted these people of killing the Lord and Christ. These words “cut to the heart” and caused them to want to serve God. This same power is in the word of God today.

The word of God is discerning. This means suitable or able to judge. The verse further explains what it judges: the thoughts and intents of the heart. Often times we like to hide things which we are ashamed of, but the word of God discerns them all. When you break a law in the United States you are judged by that law. When we hear the word of God we are judged right or wrong with God. Because the word of God discerns us, we must always keep our lives pure and righteous. When we appear before the judgement seat of Christ these thoughts and intents will either work for us or against in (2 Corinthians 5:10).

The word of God truly is an extremely powerful book. It is not just a book, but it is the living, powerful, sharp, piercing, and discerning word of God. We must always ensure that we live according to its direction. This is imperative because when we obey God's word, then unlike any other book in the world, it has the power to save our souls and deliver us to heaven. We should all heed the Hebrews writer's call in Hebrews 4:11, "Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest."