

The Doctrine of the Word: Part 3

The Character of the Word

It would be difficult to overstate all of the dimensions of God's Word and what it brings to our lives. **Hebrews 4:12** says the Bible is "living," "powerful," "penetrating," and "discriminating." These attributes tell us that the Bible is more than a book of pious platitudes or pithy principles to ponder. It is God's word of salvation and His rulebook for living.

1. **It is Alive!** The Bible brings life by giving us spiritual food (Ps 119:103-104; 1 Pet 2:2). It contains living water, (Greek *zōn* means alive), and the bread of life (Jn 6:32-35). It has the power to generate life by bringing us to Christ (Eph 2:1ff), giving us abundant life (Jn 10:10) and eternal life, (Jn 3:16; Isa 40:8).
2. **It is Powerful!** God's spoken and written Word releases His power (Col 3:16-17). It was the active force in creation (see Gen 1 "and God said . . .called . . ." 1:3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14,20, 22, 24, 26, 29). Word is the Greek *logos* is a synonym for Christ himself, (see Jn 1:1-5, 14; 3:16-21). It is filled with the power of God that transforms our lives (Jn 8:51; 17:17).
3. **It is Penetrating!** The Word of God is "sharp," Greek *tomotos*, meaning something penetrating that cuts. It is a "two-edged" sword that penetrates the heart, mind, will, of all those who hear its message. It is a lamp and light Ps 119:105. The Word is sharp, Heb 4:12; effectual, Is 55:11; sanctifying, Eph 5:26; illuminating, Ps 119:105; Acts 17:11; a fire Jer 5:1; a hammer Jer 23:29; a seed Mt 13:18-23; and sword Eph 6:17.
4. **It is Discriminating!** It is a "discerner of the thought and intents (motives) of the heart (human will). The "sword" in Hebrews 4:12, refers to the implement used by the priest to divide the joints and marrow of the sacrifice to examine and confirm it as worthy of sacrifice to God. Also, it is the sincere "milk of the Word" (1 Pet 2:2) revealing to us, others and God who we really are. The Holy Spirit uses the Word to teach us and help us to be discerning believers (1 Cor 2:6-15; Eph 5:15-21; Col 3:16).

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