

## Hebrews 4:11-16 God's Living Word

**I READ** the story this week of a missionary who was crossing into a communist country back in the 70's.

A)At the border, the guards asked, "**Do you have any guns, drugs, or Bibles?**"

B)Think about that question – Guns / drugs or Bibles - Now I get Guns and Drugs. Guns injure and kill pp. Drugs alter and distort the mind- ruin pp intellects

C)But To them, **the Bible** was as dangerous as guns and drugs.

1)But that makes perfect sense to me – A communist atheistic govt would fear the Bible – because it **changes lives.**

C)It can transform a culture and re-shape a whole generation.

1)The Bible sets people Free – empowers pp to live and think -

D)The Bible enriches lives, instills hope, and frees the human spirit, which makes it as threatening to an atheistic government as guns and drugs.

**In our text today the writer of Hebrews reminds us of the incredible Power of God's word. 11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.**

**A)In our study last time we examined the wonderful Rest that God has ordained for the believer in Jesus Christ.**

B)**Rest – not in a certain day – not in Place – - Resting in the finished work of Christ!**

Bb)But we also noted that – **It is an active – Rest – 1)The Bible makes it clear that we are saved by Faith apart from works – but true faith is a faith that works**

C)Our rest is an Active rest – believing in and walking in the finished work of Christ

1)Trusting in the finished work of Christ for our salvation and the **sustaining sanctifying** work of Christ to help us live a life pleasing to the Father!

**The Writer in v.11 gives this exhortation – Be diligent or make it your priority to enter that rest! lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.**

A)We have studied that the thing that was at the heart of **their disobedience was unbelief.** Failure to take God at His word!

B)Don't follow their example} Pt The only thing in the world that can rob you **of HIS REST** is unbelief.

**C)Be diligent” How do we give diligence? By paying close attention to the Word of God.**

1)Diligence is the opposite of “drifting” (Heb. 2:1–3).

Cc)Israel did not believe God’s Word, so the rebels fell in the wilderness.

D)We should not follow their example of disobedience to the Word.

1)So at this point the writer takes a minute – to expound upon the power of God’s word!

RD V.12-13

Hebrews 4:12-13

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

**I want you to note that last phrase to whom we must give account.”**

A)We are all going to stand before God one day – and the deciding factor for each one of us is going to be – How did we respond to His Word.

B)Specifically His word concerning Jesus – His Sacrifice – Finished work.

**C)But when a person gets into God’s word and allows God’s word to get into them – the results are life changing.**

D)Quickly consider 3 things this text tells us about God’s Word!

**#1 GOD’S WORD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE.**

A)"Living and active" shows that there is a dynamic quality about God's revelation. It does things.

B)Isaiah 55:11 beautifully says: “... so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

C)Jesus alluded to the living aspect of the Word of God declaring... **John 6:63**

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the **words** that I have spoken to you are spirit and are **life.**”

D) (**Beauty Beast Library**)Book shelf – 25,000 books -  
1.) Only one could say "It is alive"

E)Reason: The author: He is the Word of life!is not dead

1)Jesus disciples - will you leave me too? –

*"Where go, in You are words of eternal life!"*

**DO YOU BELIEVE THAT ?**

## **Not just words on a Page: Living like a seed.**

A) Jesus in the parable of the sower – likened the word of God to a seed that gets planted.

B) Power in that seed to produce something – the word of God is living like a seed it produces spiritual fruit.

1) The Key is in the soil it is planted in – Good soil – receptive = fruit!

C) Living is in the present tense – Never changing! Living and active in every generation.

Peter writes that... “All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, But the word of the Lord endures forever.” 1Peter 1:24

## **Relevant:**

A) Bible is never outdated – Deals with man’s greatest need – Know God –

1) Man’s greatest problem – Sin

B) All of man’s **biggest hang ups** – Pride, fear, lust, greed, { Who needs to watch a soap opera – it is all there –

C) The only difference is – the Bible has a Hero in the story – **Enter the Mess – cesspool of humanity**

1) Living God who wants to fix man – rescue man from himself and who can take the most messed up situation and bring healing – reconciliation and peace.

## **GOD’S WORD IS POWERFUL= Active**

George Whitefield, the great 18th-century evangelist, was hounded by a group of detractors who called themselves the “**Hell-fire Club.**” They derided his work and mocked him. On one occasion one of them, a man named Thorpe, was mimicking Whitefield to his cronies, delivering his sermon with brilliant accuracy, perfectly imitating his tone and facial expressions, when he himself was so pierced that he sat down and was converted on the spot.

**In an instant it can change a person for eternity!**

**The story has been told of a South Sea Islander who proudly displayed his Bible to a G.I. during World War II. *"We've outgrown that sort of thing," the soldier said. The native smiled back, "It's a good thing we haven't. If it weren't for this book, you'd have been a meal by now!"***

## **#2 GOD’S WORD PENETRATING!**

A) In comparing the Word of God to a sword, the writer is not suggesting that God uses His Word to slaughter the saints!

B) The Greek word translated "sword" means "a short sword or dagger."

1) The idea is it is used in close hand to hand combat –

### **C) Implication: God wants to get close to us**

1) His word cuts through the surface of our lives – Pretending to be what we are not.

### **PIERCING= TO cut through or to cut deep!**

**A) The writer gives an analogy: it divides joints and marrow. Joints are the thick, hard, outer part of the bone.**

**B) Marrow is the soft, tender, living, inner part of the bone.**

1) The word of God is like a sword that is sharp enough to cut right through the outer, hard, tough part of a bone to the inner, soft, living part of the bone.

### **God's word is like a surgeon: X ray – MRI – Scalpel all in one.**

**A) Reveals the tumor or the problem and is able to extract it – cut through the flesh and get to the root of the problem.**

**B) And when a surgeon is performing an operation – bright lights are used to expose every dark crevice – too pin point the problem.**

The Bible, according to the late journalist Malcolm Muggeridge, is "the book that reads me."

**C) God's word is like a mirror exposes everything.**

**Fake Mirrors**

1) Soul = Conscience – Spirit = Who we are?

### **R Kent Hughes account of his conversion**

I was twelve years old when I came under the knife of God's Word. The cuts went deep, deeper than blood, as they cut my soul in gracious surgery.

I was cut with the clear understanding that though I was an outward son of the church, I was not a son of God. This left me aware that I was a sinner and outside the spiritual mystery that others in the church shared. The cut hurt, and I wanted healing.

The other cut that the knife brought was the conviction that Jesus Christ was God and that he had died on the cross for my sins. This was a totally new conviction, and it throbbed with an almost sweet, unrequited pain. God's Word had surgically prepared my soul for an ultimate healing operation.

Have you experienced the word of God doing surgery on your soul?

### **#3 GOD'S WORD IS DISCERNING**

**A) It is a Discerner = a critic / dissector of the thoughts and the intents of the heart!**

**B) Thoughts = emotional part of man – intents = intellectual side of man**

**“Your emotional and intellectual life must alike be submitted to the scrutiny of God's word” William Barclay**

### **Thoughts can be rational**

**A) But God's word is not always rational – Wives submit – That doesn't make sense – Husbands Love**

....

**B) Thoughts make us think – they are going to take advantage of me, walk all over me –**

1) Turn the other cheek – soft answer turns away wrath -  
No!!!! Wilkerson

C) God says: Trust my word and watch what happens – His word is attached to His name – who He is – His character

**Emotions can make us want to run – Flee – avoid a tough situation – reluctant to step out in faith**

A) God's word challenges those emotions and brings stability where there can be emotional Chaos.

B) That is the beauty of the Word of God! – Believe it – walk in it

C) Through the prophet Amos – God says something interesting about the last days and the word.

Amos 8:11

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.

**Famine: Not here! – We are given to study it!**

A) Some churches 20min sermonettes for Christianettes – Attention spans

Not here { Cater to fast food Christianity.

**B) I Believe pp attention spans can grow! – 40-50min. dig in, study it**

1) Myself, Jason, Danny – whoever is teaching – We will do our part

C) But you need to do yours – What is yours? **BE DOERS**

James 1:22-25

22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the word, this one will be blessed in what he does."

**Can we make a pact ?**

A) We will do our part- Listen if I am going to get up here and teach my heart out and pray and study all week –

B) Just so that you can judge – good sermon – 8 or ok – 5 – lousy -2

1) Lets close the doors –

C) **LISTEN - I believe in the power of the word of God to transform lives.**

1) Heal marriages / challenge our thoughts and attitudes. **I will preach it**

But let's not be connoisseurs

**Cc)Spiritual egg heads – Some of you’ve been through the Bible several times now.**

1)Many of you have told me – I have learned so much here – Great!

D)But that knowledge needs to be applied. –

**If I had to choose between you being a Knowledgeable church – or Active**

A)I would choose active – because the Bible tells us that Knowledge alone – Puffs up, prideful

B)God is against the proud – grace to the humble

C)Knowledge alone puffs up

1)Love – Activity done, love for God, love for pp – builds up

D)I think we can seek to be both! -

**Lets be a family of believers who say: God, we invite You to do surgery on us? - That is good soil.**

A)Lord gives us something in daily reading – to run with – studies here put it into practice. Watch what He does!

B)That sounds good Pastor Rob – but what about when I fail ? Lack faith or I don’t follow through? Spirit is willing but my flesh is weak

1)Then I feel guilty and it makes me want to give up!

**C)It is almost as if the Holy Spirit anticipated that reaction by what He says next here in our passage.**

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Now we are going to come back to this passage next time – unwrap it! But I want you in closing to note two things**

A)Here we see the Key to holding fast - *seeing we have a great High Priest! Jesus the Son of God*

B)You know if this Christian life was up to me to maintain alone – I would have given up a long time ago./

Bb)If it was up to me to find the strength & develop the ability to walk uprightly / live wisely - If it was up to me – NO WAY– DUST

C) But I have a High Priest – Who is committed to Helping me !!!!

## What kind of High Priest is He?

A.) Ch. 2: 17 Compassionate: *Get inside skin - feel what you are feeling*

He took on flesh – he walked in my shoes

B) Told here He can sympathize w/ our weaknesses

Weaknesses does not refer to sin It refers to all the natural limitations of humanity.

1) Jesus experienced what it was like to be physically fatigued –slept/ storm / emotionally drained, wept in the garden.

2) Experienced rejection – heartache –wept over Jerusalem –

Knew what it was like to be let down – forsaken

C) He knows our limitations and He can sympathize with us

1) He was tempted in all points – Temptation comes from 3 avenues - World – flesh – devil

D) Jesus experienced that to the fullest

1) Tempted to carry out His own will instead of yielding to God's will – isn't that the struggle we all face every day?

E) And we have a **throne of grace to run to** – Not a throne of condemnation

1) Come boldly – speak freely – not saved again