



The Word Of God Is Living And Active - Heed It!



In the wilderness when Jesus was tempted by Satan He defeated him by the word of God. There is power in the word! **The word defeated Satan then and the word defeats Satan now.** The word is part of the armor that God has provide for His people so that they can be strong in the power of His might (Ephesians 6:10, 13 & 17).

The truth is, Christians don't always use the word -- and unfortunately some use it hardly at all! To Christians the Bible says, "Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and powerful" (*powerful*; also translated; *active, operative, or effectual*) "and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 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" (Hebrews 4:11-13). This scripture warns and reminds Christians of the word's active judicial examining power. The word is living, the word is active!

In the epistle of James the word saw the human heart and mind as a garden, that if left to itself, the soil would produce only weeds. The word urges Christians to lay aside the "weeds" of sin so that their hearts and minds will heed the "**implanted word.**" "Therefore, lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). "Receive the implanted word;" it requires an attitude of meekness -- don't argue about it, don't twist it, don't fight it, embrace it, accept it.

The word has an examining function for the Christian.

Receive the implanted word with meekness. Don't argue with it, twist it, or change it; accept it, don't fight it!

"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; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was (James 1:23-24). Some merely glance at themselves in a mirror and off they go -- not seeing what they **really** look like physically,-- their kept or unkept appearance. Some read the Bible, -- and their conscience doesn't bother them, for long because they read casually and carelessly --not diligently applying the word to themselves; to expose

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their ungodly attitudes and actions. **Carelessness is their first terrible mistake.** It's the difference between an out of focus snap shot and an X-Ray; a casual undiscerning glance and a careful examining look.

Some people's conscience should bother them because they read carelessly -- not applying the word to themselves to expose their ungodly attitudes and actions.

The second mistake is they forget what they see!

In the word we see God and we also see how God sees us. The word exposes or reveals our hearts to us. This experience enables us -- if we love God, to obey Him and receive His promises. **The third mistake is that they do not look deeply and earnestly into their heart.** If they did look deeply and honestly, WHAT THEY SAW WOULD BE UNFORGETTABLE! Isaiah saw God and said, "Woe is me for I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips ..." (Isaiah 6:5). **The fourth mistake is they fail to obey even what they know the word tells them to do!** Hearing is not the same as doing. "He who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:25). Church planning about activities -- does not get those things done. The doing happens as a result. The blessing does not come after the reading, or hearing of God's word. It comes during or after doing the work or the keeping of God's word (Revelation 1:3).

God (the Holy Scriptures, 2 Timothy 3:15), **reveals the glory of Christ Jesus.** The word is like a mirror's image of Him! Beholding Him, seeing Him through the word, we are transformed, degree by degree, into His likeness! **"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror, the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord"** (2 Corinthians 3:18). Christians are called to "radiate" the glory of the Lord as they see Him through the word, and desire to become like Him; having the attitude of "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I know live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). **The word of God is living and active, — heed it, live it! Will you?**

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**Four Mistakes Of The
"Casual" Christian**

1. Carelessly reading the word.
2. Forgetting what they see, when they see what God sees in them.
3. Not looking deeply and earnestly at themselves.
4. Failing to obey even what they know the word tells them to do.

Christ Jesus knows what is in each and every person (John 2:25) **for He is the Word of God in the flesh** (John 1:1-4 & 14). The Word of God discerns what is animal, fleshly, and worldly, from what is spiritual, Christ-like, and godly. **The word of**

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