

101021 Sermon **"The Living Word of God"** Hebrews 4:12-16

Two woodcutters went up a mountain. They competed to see who could cut down more firewood. The first woodcutter took no breaks from dawn to midnight, while the other rested for 10 minutes for every 50 minutes of working. When it was time, the two compared each other's efforts. It turned out the friend who took periodic breaks cut more firewood. The first woodcutter grumbled, "I have worked harder even without rest, so why do you have more?" The friend kindly explained, "I've been sharpening my ax during the breaks I've been taking!" Of course, he had to win. It is important to work hard, but would you say that you work hard without knowing that the axe's blade is dull?

The Bible testifies that the Word of God is keener than a sharp sword. No matter how busy you are and how hard you work, I hope that you will not be unaware that the sword of the Word is dull in your life. Because what we read and learn from the Bible is not just for our knowledge, but for our own survival as Christians. The Bible is absolutely necessary for you to live as a Christian today, as a disciple of Jesus today, and as a child of God today. The Bible helps us to make many choices in our lives wisely, and it helps us to know what God is pleased with. It is, after all, a blessed life.

We start our Bible study this Thursday at 7:30 PM via Zoom and I'm very excited! I am excited that I will take this opportunity to get to know you and you get to know me. This time we will learn the 23rd Psalm in particular. It is an opportunity for us to read the words of God together, ponder the meaning of those words, and learn to connect with our lives. Please feel free to join even if you have little knowledge or even no

knowledge of the Bible. It will be a time to learn the word of God and share our lives with each other.

Today in Hebrews 4, it is written, "the word of God is living and active." Let me ask you a question. Is the Word of God alive really? "Pastor, the Bible tells us that the word of God is alive. So, it is alive!" That's great! But I want you to take this question more seriously. "Is the word of God alive TO YOU?" If you really believe the Bible is alive, what would happen because it's sharper than two-edged sword? Verse 12 says, "piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." In verse 13, "and before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account."

Where or when do you feel most alive? What do you do that makes you feel alive? [I read in an article that people on average blink once every 4-5 seconds in his/her normal state. This article reported that a person who was having a casual conversation for 10 minutes blinked about 160 times throughout. But, when they were playing with their smartphone, they only blinked 64 times in 10 minutes! We cannot take our eyes off our phones, and we apparently feel more alive when looking at the vibrant, colorful, interactive screens of our phones.](#)

How does the Bible compare to the gorgeous, sophisticated, changeable, and fast-paced of the world? Even now, the world shouts to us, "look at the living world instead of the dry text of the Bible!"

Dear Beloved, I bless you in the name of Jesus to experience the living Bible in your daily life! We must be able to take our eyes off the things of

the world, and move our eyes to the Bible, lest our spirituality become dry. Do not seek to be alive in the ephemeral world, but instead try to discover your vitality in the Word of God.

First, we shared that the Word of God must be alive in our lives. Second, I would like to talk about the role of the living Word of God. I want you to think about it this way. If there is a sore spot due to a serious infection, can it be healed completely without tearing or cutting the area or squeezing out pus? Impossible. Tear and squeeze to make it clean. The Bible says it does this.

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

We must be broken every day before the Bible. A broken heart is a contrite mind. Psalm 51:17 says, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” This is so that our Lord can work in our lives. It is only when we cannot help but be conscious of our own weaknesses and limitations that we begin hearing the Lord’s teaching in earnest. To be sure, this is not a painless process.

But always be certain that healing is the purpose, new life is the purpose, and mature life is the purpose. How can tomorrow's life be better than today, without the tearing and mending of today's wounds? Through this continuous process of tearing and mending, we come to find the reason and meaning of our lives, and are able to go into the world and share the Lord's teachings. For those who dwell in the teachings of the Lord, our

brokenness by the Word is not pain, but the joy of new life and power! When we really want to live according to the Word, it revives our soul day by day. Even when our lives are tough, weary, depressed, and greatly fallen, the Word of God gives us the strength to rise again.

Russell Carter (1849-1928) was a star athlete of a military academy and an excellent student academically, who went on to be a successful teacher and coach. He then spent several years as an ordained Methodist pastor, after which he went to medical school. He spent the last of his professional years as a doctor of medicine. Carter was also a musician and songwriter.

Although Carter was a professed Christian most of his life, it wasn't until a crisis with his natural heart that he began to understand the reality and power of Bible promises. At age 30, his health was in critical condition and the physicians could do no more for him. Carter turned to God for help and healing.

He knelt and made a promise that healing or no, his life was finally and forever, fully consecrated to the service of the Lord. It was from that moment that the written Word of God became alive to Carter. He began to stand upon the promises of healing, determining to believe no matter what his physical condition, no matter how he felt. Over the course of the next several months his strength returned, and his heart was completely healed! Carter lived another healthy 49 years.

The hymn Carter had written several years before his healing miracle became more than words and music to him. Standing on the Promises became an integral part of his life.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, sometimes the situation unfolding in front of us is not easy at all, but please leave your life, your family, your business, and your studies to the Lord completely. It is to put down my standards, my ways, and my interests, and leave them all before the Word of the living God. Believe in God's promises. Believe in God's presence and be bold! Then, God will deliver us from our situations. And in any circumstance, believe that God will be with us until the very end. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ that we will all be victorious with this faith and live our lives this week. Fairfield Grace, May God's grace and peace and blessing be with you and your family, and your business, and your studies, and with the lives of your children. Amen.