



Second Baptist Church

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THE PURPOSE OF SCRIPTURE: ALIVE, ACTIVE, TRANSFORMING

Hebrews 4:12, John 8:31-32, James 1:22

Hebrews 4:12 - ¹²For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (NKJ)

- **Living and Active:** The Word is not static, but powerful and effective in bringing about God's purpose. Dynamic, energetic, powerful, life-giving, working.
- **Sharpness:** It is compared to a two-edged sword (or surgeon's scalpel), capable of cutting through deception and revealing truth. Piercing, cutting, penetrating, super razor sharp.
- **Deep Penetration:** It reaches the deepest parts of human nature, described as separating soul and spirit and joints and marrow.
- **Discerning Judge:** The Word evaluates our innermost thoughts, motives, and intentions. Exposing, revealing, and examining beyond the surface.

Another Look:

Ephesians 6:17: Calls The word of God the sword of the spirit

Revelation 1:16: Depicts a sharp, two-edged sword coming from the mouth of Jesus, representing judgment.

Jeremiah 23:29: Compares God's word to a fire and hammer that breaks rock.

Chew on this thought:

God's word is active, living message, that acts as both a warning and a promise. The word has the ability to reveal your intentions, motives, and expose sin and guide us to truth.

John 8:31-32: ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (NKJ)

- **True Discipleship:** Jesus defines a true disciple as someone who continues, dwells, or (abides) in His word, rather than just believing intellectually. True discipleship is defined by persistence and obedience, not just a one-time profession of faith.
- **Knowing the Truth:** By remaining in His teaching, believers gain access to the truth, which is often interpreted as both the message of Jesus and the reality of God. Also, understanding the Gospel, the nature of God, and Jesus as the source of truth.
- **Abide in My word:** Means continuing, dwelling, or remaining in Jesus' teachings, not just believing them superficially. Allow the word to penetrate the heart, mind, and soul.
- **Set you free:** Freedom in this means being released from the dominion of sin, guilt, deception, and the need for self-justification. The ultimate result of this truth is freedom, specifically freedom from the bondage of sin, self, and destruction.

Application of the word:

- **Daily Devotion: Consistently studying and applying the Bible to daily life to gain spiritual wisdom. John 15:7 (ABIDING)**
 - **Overcoming Addiction/Sin: Using the truth of God's word to break free from sinful habits or destructive thought patterns. John 8:36 (FREEDOM)**
 - **This Passage reminds US: 3- Step process: ABIDE- KNOW- FREE**
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James 1:22: ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (NKJ)

- **Living the Word:** Actively incorporating biblical principles into daily life. Luke 11:28
- **Practicing Obedience:** Following God's commands in action. John 14:15
- **Active Faith:** Demonstrating belief through concrete deeds.

- **Fruitful Living:** Producing righteous behavior, as discussed in the context of James 1:22 on Knowing Jesus.
- **Walking in Truth:** Aligning daily actions with the teachings of Scripture

Application of the word:

Being a doer of the word will involve allowing the scriptures to transform your thoughts, behavior, attitude, relationship and your own way of living. We must be consistent in obeying Gods' word. So, we are challenged to make faith and obedience to God practical living.