

God's Word: Alive and Powerful

Psalms 119:162 - *I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.*

Job 23:12 - *... I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.*

Psalms 119:103 - *“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth”.*

Jeremiah 15:16a - *Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.*

How's your relationship with the Word of God? Do you engage with it? Is it a treasure to you? Do you seek to grow in the Word? Do you have a full revelation of the power contained within the pages of your bible? Do you know that the Word is a treasure-chest filled with exceedingly great and precious promises?

Today's text: Hebrews 4:12 - *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.*

The Passion Translation: *“For we have the living word of God which is full of energy”*

AMPC (Amplified Bible) : *For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]*

God's word is alive and powerful. It is not dead, and it is not powerless. We have libraries filled with writings that are dead, outdated, irrelevant and powerless. But the Bible makes this claim: it is an up to date, always sharp, living Word of God – full of power. Is that how you see the Word of God? If so, the Bible should then never be a neglected book in our lives. Could it be that our 'Western' way of thinking has somehow influenced our view of the Bible and caused many to have a low view of the Scriptures?

1. How do you see the Word of God?

I have come across people who do not engage with the Bible in a meaningful way because either they see it simply as a historical book, or something perhaps deeply philosophical or the kind of thing that can't be trusted against science.

- a) Firstly, the Word of God is not a 'historical' book. No. God's Word stands at the very origin of history itself! The Word of God started history:

John 1:1-3 - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

- a) In the same way, the Bible isn't simply a philosophical book, competing with countless other books written by great philosophers. No, the words of God are

not at the level of human reasoning. The Words of God stand on a different category of thinking altogether. God says,

Isaiah 55:9 - *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.*

The French 17th century philosopher Voltaire said that the Bible would be extinct in 100 years. Within 50 years of that statement, Voltaire himself was extinct, and his house became a warehouse for Bibles and the headquarters of the Geneva Bible Society.

So, the Bible isn't a history book but the book that started history, the Bible isn't philosophy but a book that soars above the thoughts of men.

- b) Well, what about science? Many don't know that Christian theology was essential for the rise of science itself. The foundation of modern science started in the 1300's.

One of those early theologians puzzled by the order found in nature, the balance of creation, wrote, *"Since the order in nature is contingent to the act of the Creator, we have to go and look and see what kind of order He put into it"*

That very statement pushed man into the journey of science, as we know it today. The great scientist Robert Boyle (XVII century) said *"a deeper understanding of science is a higher way to glorify God"*. For instance, people like Gregor Mendel (XIX century) started the study human genetics. He was a priest.

There are many great born-again scientists from Isaac Newton in the XVII century to contemporary scientists like Francis Collins (known by his work with the Human Genome). Francis was an atheist who came to Christ. He wrote, *"the God of the Bible is also the God of genome"*.

2. How do I see the Word of God

Hebrews 4:12 - *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword,*

When I came to the realization for myself that the Bible that my dad read at home wasn't just some boring, outdated book but a Word that is alive, powerful, sharp, energized by the power of God, immutable, 'dangerous' even (in the words of my father), I started my own relationship with the Word:

- The Word became a daily adventure - a treasure hunt (**Psalms 119:162** - *I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure*).
- The Word became my daily nourishment (*"Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God"*). **1 Timothy 4:6** says, ... *"nourished in the words of faith and of good doctrine"*.

- The Word renewed my mind, and I started experiencing that ‘*good and perfect will of God*’ for my life (Romans 12:2).

3. A new way to see the Word of God

Our Western world has a way of thinking that is different from the Biblical/Hebrew way of thinking. The way we think in the West has been strongly influenced by Greek thought, philosophy, and culture. For instance, in the Greek way of thinking, **words** are carriers of **information** and concepts. However, in the Hebrew way of thinking, words are **carriers of power**. That is why we read that *God’s word is alive and powerful*.

If you see God’s Word from a Greek mindset you will miss out on a lot of what God’s Word really is. In the Hebrew way of thinking, words carry more than information, they are destined for more than the intellect, words are conduits of spiritual power.

- God used words to create the world.
- The same worlds He created are now sustained by the Word of His power (according to 2 Peter 3:5-7; Hebrews 1:3)
- Isaiah 55:11 says that the spoken Word of God *shall never return void*,
- Proverbs 4:20 says that God’s Word is *life to those who find it and health to our flesh*.

How different that is from the Greek way of thinking. In the Hebrew way of thinking, the Word of God is always creative and operative.

Psalms 107:20 – “*He sent His word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions*”.

John 6:63 – “*My words are spirit and life*”

That is why Peter said to Jesus, “*command me to walk on the waters*”, or “*at your word, I will let down the nets*”. He knew that the words of Jesus were not just concepts by carriers of power.

In **1 Corinthians 1:22**, we read “*The Jews request a sign and Greeks seek after wisdom*”.

This statement shows us two different mindsets: one who sees through supernatural lenses (seeks a sign) and one intellectual (wisdom). We need to view the Word of God as a supernatural Word, alive and powerful.

I find it interesting something that Gandhi said (I never thought I would ever quote Gandhi, but I think he made an interesting observation):

“You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilization to pieces, turn the world upside-down and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as nothing more than a piece of good literature”.

Of course, he must have met the wrong kind of Christians but even Gandhi acknowledged the power of the Word of God to turn the world upside-down.

How do you see the Word of God? We can't have a purely intellectual view of the Scriptures. No. His Word is spirit and life!

Concluding thoughts

In **John 4:46-53** we read the story of a nobleman whose son had died. The man requested the presence of Jesus so that He would come and heal His son. Jesus didn't move from where He was but spoke into the situation: "*Go, your way, your son lives*".

Verse 50 says that the man believed the Word of Jesus and returned. He returned without the '*presence*' but not without a *Word*. Jesus said, '*your son lives.*' He had a Word. When he arrived, he was told that the very hour Jesus spoke that Word, the son was healed!

His Word was as good as His presence!

The same happened with the Syrophenician woman whose daughter was possessed (Mk 7:24-29) and also with the Centurion in Matthew 8:8 (*I am not worthy that you should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed*)

That is how powerful His Word is – His Word is as powerful as His presence.

So, **how's your relationship with the Word of God?** Do you engage with it? Is it a treasure to you? Do you seek to grow in the Word? Do you have a full revelation of the power contained within the pages of your bible? Do you know the Word as a treasure-chest filled with exceedingly great and precious promises to be believed in?