

# The Living Bible

## Our Bible

We can look at the bible from many different angles – last week we explored some of the more natural aspects of the bible – its accuracy:

- Historically
- Geographically
- Scientifically
- Prophetically

And we looked at some of the enthralling discoveries that set the bible apart from all other historical literature and holy books:

- Ivan Panin
- The Bible Code

Next week we'll unpack where the bible comes from – how it lands in your hands today as a historical volume.

## The Word is Living

But today I wanted to look at some other aspects of God's word.

We can see it as words on the page, a fascinating read that we can scrutinise and analyse, unpack, pull apart, study, contextualise. But the Word of God is much more than a study tool.

Many people (scholars, experts) have spent time studying the Word of God – but it's not until you come to God's word with a heart that is affected by faith that you start to see and understand its power and its beauty.

 **Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)**

*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

God's Word is more than text on a page – to the faith-filled believer the Word of God is alive and it is active.


 **Isaiah 55:11 (NIV)**

*“... 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.”*

As we absorb the Word of God, handle the Word of God, and as we apply the Word of God to our lives so it searches our hearts and it transforms us.

This is the 'living' and 'active' aspect part of the word – it transforms thinking, and so transforms hearts, which in turn transforms families, communities and ultimately nations.

## **Derek Prince Quote**

 *“Remember, when you're reading your Bible, your Bible is also reading you. It is a two-way transaction.”*

*— Derek Prince, Authority and Power of God's Word*

## **The Word is a Defensive Weapon**

But check this out - Jesus used the word of God to defend against Satan's attacks:

 **Matthew 4:3-4**

*The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”*

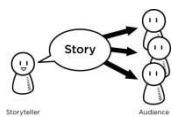
 **Matthew 4:5-7**

*Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”*

 **Matthew 4:8-10**

*Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’ ”*

It’s interesting that we tend towards reading the New Testament these days – but look how Jesus used the Word of God to defend against Satan’s attacks – and all these scriptures come from the book of Deuteronomy!



Derek Prince tells the story where he was trying to cast a spirit out of a person. He resorted to reading the scriptures to the demon as it would not budge. The spirit screamed at him to stop and finally relinquished control of the person because it had heard enough of the Word.

## The Word attacks Sin

As we saw last week, Jesus says in Matthew 10:34

 **Matthew 10:34**

*“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”*

Here, Jesus is talking about the Word of God – and He is warning that the effect of speaking the Word of God to a culture and to an individual is that it has the very real capacity to challenge lots of things –

- political power
- false religious beliefs
- unethical behaviour
- moral failure
- failure to live by God’s standards – otherwise known collectively as “sin”

When people are challenged, they sometimes react in anger and that anger can sometimes lead to division and discord, aggression and even result in violence.

So the Word of God attacks and highlights (or exposes) sin in us. We can rejoice in this as it helps us walk in obedience to God!

 **Psalm 119:105**

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.”*

## **The Word (Sword) attacks Satan**

Ephesians 6 is all about learning to defend against Satan and his schemes.

 **Ephesian 6:16-17**

*In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

Here Paul is reminding us that the Word of God is a fundamental part of our arsenal.

Swords – can be used to defend against an attacker; or can be used to attack in an offensive way.

In the same way, we can use the Word of God to attack the enemy – speaking against His works and tearing down strong holds in our lives and in the our families, etc.

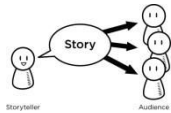
## God Protects His Word

There have been many attempts to distort, refute, repress and destroy the Word of God!

 **Isaiah 40:8**

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.*

## Only God’s Word will Awake the World



An old preaching professor used to take his students to a cemetery every semester. Standing on the perimeter overlooking scores of headstones, he would ask his students in all sincerity to speak the graves and call people from the ground to rise up and live. With some embarrassment and an awkward chuckle or two, they would try it. Of course, one by one they would fail. The professor would then look at his students and remind them of a core truth in the gospel: people are spiritually dead, just as those corpses in the cemetery were physically dead, and only words from God can bring them to spiritual life.



If Satan can stop you reading the Word of God, then he has successfully removed the spiritual fuel for a believer – that otherwise helps them walk in authority, in blessing, as an overcomer against evil.

There’s much in His word that I’ve yet to explore. Do you, like me, need to know His word better? If you could change one thing today to assist you in learning to better know His word, what would that be?

A reading plan? A commentary? Attending a bible study? Memorising scriptures?

It's time to fall in love with His word again!