

E-votional 106

Living and Active

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.

A thought occurred to me recently about the power of God's Word and how it can literally transform a person if applied with faith. Not only that but this transformation takes place deep within where the thoughts and intentions are. This thought came to me as I was doing a little self-examination. The self-examination that I am speaking about here has to do with how I read the Word of God. I say this because it occurred to me that there are times in my life when I feel as if I am reading the Bible just to mark another item off of my Christian checklist.

The reason for this is that there are times in our lives when we must admit that we have somehow lost that luster of realizing that God's Word is so much more than words on a page, but words from the very mouth of God. When mingled with faith we come to taste and see the goodness of the Lord and how He transforms us through it. His Word is indeed living and active. Another way of saying this is that God's Word is alive and powerful. You see, His Word reveals the depths of the human condition and makes known to us the glories of His holiness and power. Through this, we are being made into His image day by day and glory to glory.

But what if we have indeed lost that luster of realizing this?

Well, the short answer is that we would just be committing to some rote exercise that has no eternal benefits at all and further no power to transform. We can easily come to the point in our lives when we lose the mystery of the word of God and the hunger thereof.

I guess that is the whole meaning of this message. That is, that we need to make sure that our hearts remain diligent in faith to allow for God's Word to search us and know us and to make us ready for the Master and also for every good work that He has for us to do.

A situation has arisen recently that has caused me to ponder this message myself. There are a lot of things and circumstances that are going on around me that are just plain crazy. For the most part, I have been praying that God would somehow change the circumstances so I could experience a little inner freedom or a little sanctity in my life. I have been so consumed with what is going on that sometimes I have found myself reading God's Word without that luster and mystery I spoke of earlier.

Upon recognizing it, I began to change my prayers. One way that I did this was by coming to the Lord in prayer and honestly asking Him to not change my situation but rather to change me. I say this because the living Word can set us free. On one hand, I was wanting a little freedom from my situation but what I was really needing was for the Lord to speak His Word into my heart so that I would be free on the inside. You see I want His Word to be alive and active within me. I wanted nothing more than to experience the revelation of His Word birthed within me. I say this because as mentioned before that there was missing that certain luster of His Word while reading it. I was reading it but not taking it in. It was as if I was just going through the motions.

Brothers and sisters, I do not want to just go through the motions but I find that from time to time regardless of what type of situation I am in that there are things at work within each of us (that is the sinful flesh) that attempt to lure us and entice us away from the Living God and His living Word. In short, we become dry to His Word. We know this to be a dangerous place to be and so we as believers in Christ need to recognize this temptation from afar before it takes too deep of a root in our hearts and then we need to turn to Jesus and pray to be healed of such a dangerous malady.

Oh God manifest the glories of Your Word within us! Birth within us Your truth and truly set us free! Let Your Word transform us into Your likeness and image!

Recently, I was sharing with my sister about my past drug addiction and how God literally transformed the desires of my heart to line up with His Word. Think of this as an impossible situation, but yet God did it through His living and active Word. Hallelujah!

Now, as a disclaimer, the point here has little to do with drug addiction but more so with the power of God's Word to transform. God is in the transforming

business and that is not exclusive to drug addicts but to everyone with any issues great or small. We live in a fallen world and are in sinful flesh. God is, however, more than able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we can ask or even think according to the power that is at work within us despite the fallen world or sinful flesh. (Ephesians 3:20-21) In short, there is no job too big or small that God cannot transform. Not only can He transform but desires to do so.

This message is sort of two-fold. On the one hand, as believers, we can become dry and need God's Word to be made alive and fresh for us. And on the other hand, God's Word can and does radically transform the most sinful and destructive tendencies. However, in both cases, God's Word is alive and active and is quick and powerful.

I think at the very heart of this message it is for us to be renewed in how we read and trust God's Word. The conclusion then is bound to the following defining question. Is God's Word alive for us and in us or is it just mere words on a page? I will let you decide for yourself.

Heavenly Father, regardless of where we are at in our lives at the present. Help us to reflect on Your Word and how we view it. Your Words are truly life-giving but there are times when we subconsciously or even at other times consciously forget that. Whichever one is true it makes no difference because Your Word is quick and powerful and also living and active. It is sharper than any two-edged sword and can rightly discern our thoughts and intentions from deep within. Please open our hearts to this once again and even more so as we see the day drawing near that You return. We want to be persevered and made alive more and more by Your Word Father, in Jesus name. Amen.

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