

# The Spirit's Sword

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***"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)***

As a preacher, the writing of this song was just plain fun! Matt asked me to write lyrics about God's Word for an upcoming project he was heading. I was eager to write about the Scripture!

In planning it out, I considered two images of the Word. I could go in the direction of the Word as a fiery hammer (Jeremiah 23) or as a razor-sharp sword (Hebrews 4). Eventually choosing the metaphor of a sword, I pulled out my sermon notes written from a pastors' conference I attended a decade earlier. One of the preachers expounded Hebrews 4:12-13, exhorting us to preach the Word and let it have its way. Let us be done, he said, with relying on "plastic utensils" like our personalities or clever oratorical abilities, but let us rather unsheathe the Sword of the Spirit and preach the Word as it is. Oh was my heart and mind lit up!

His sermon outline listed seven characteristics of the Sword...

A divine sword - It has come from God

A living sword - It is relevant for the 21st century

A powerful sword - It changes lives

A razor-sharp sword - It cuts to the heart

A piercing sword - It gets to the point of the problem

A judging sword - It exposes the sinner before the eyes of God

A saving sword - It points the sinner to the rest and hope found in Christ

Look closely and you'll discover all seven characteristics in my hymn. The greatest of all is that final characteristic, the saving sword. The whole reason the Holy Spirit cuts the heart is to heal sinners, pointing us to the hope we can only find in Jesus Christ. So as preachers, teachers, counselors, and disciple-makers, let us all unsheathe the Sword of the Spirit!