

Majority of my sermon inspiration comes from my bible reading... When I read and something captures my attention... A word, a phrase, or an idea... I note it, the move along in my bible reading... Later when I study it out, then preach it, it is amazing how often someone will say *That is exactly what I needed... that was just for me... that was right on time!* PG: *If the word of God speaks to me, then it will speak to people when I preach it.*

You can take confidence in the word of God, and the declaration we make for each service-

Hebrews 4:12 NKJV 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.

I A LIVING WORD:

A- The word we preach is more than ink on paper... They are the words of God!

1. Our passage says they are living words-

- a. Why? Because they are the manifestation of a living person: JESUS
 - i. **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...
 - b. These aren't just ideas of a person or from people... they are the living truth of the son of God!
 - i. **John 6:63** The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.

2. So that makes this truth we declare every week, every revival, every rally and conference so much more than just another sermon... they are words of Spiritual life, eternal life, righteous life, salvation life-

B- The issue is some can lose sight of this in the battles of ministry-

1. In the criticisms of people... that seem to come when you are most discouraged-

a. I can remember feeling so inadequate early in ministry... and then hearing the criticisms of a lady in the church... it had an effect on me...

2. In the sins of people... When they live their way instead of God's way, and then make you the problem-

- a. Dealing with ministry removal, immorality, or something else-
 - i. *When I need God the most, you're removing me? You're not letting me come, or be involved...*

3. In the rebellion of people... When you in the heat of the battle and you feel like your losing...

- a. It can be difficult to take courage in the word!

4. In the lack of results... When things seem like they just aren't working no matter what you try-

- a. Remember early in SF... we couldn't pay people to pray... it was very depressing on the outside...
 - i. Especially when people would ask... *Why are we doing this?*

C- But our passage is a reminder- **V12** For the word of God is living and powerful!

1. It is effective, because it has life within it! Resurrection life & power!

- a. Hell makes you feel like its a loss... But the word of God is always at work-

b. **Isaiah 55:11** So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please...

- i. It will do exactly what God said it would-

ii I am so grateful I caught the spirit and revelation of THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE...

- a. It is rooted in the word of God... I may feel and see all sorts of things, but the word is stable and true

II RESULTS OF THE WORD:

A- Our passage speaks of results that the word produces-

1. **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.

- a. Sharp: Cuts away... Sin, lies, deceit, barriers...

i. In the natural we cannot motivate such things, but the word of God can!

- b. Pierces: Penetrates... Gets through hard hearts, bitter hearts, unforgiving hearts, broken hearts, rebellious hearts

i. Where its easier for someone to keep people out or ignore their words... the word of God finds its way in!

- ii And gets to work on the areas that need healing-

- c. Discerns: Able to judge... When you stand with Gods word, you stand with His judgement on things-
 - i. What does God say about it? What does God direct us towards? What does God's word teach us?
 - ii You can make decisions based on an outside opinion...

B- All of these teach us: We should expect results-

- 1. That when the word of God is declared... results will take place!

- a. Because that is what is supposed to happen! That is the natural result of declared truth-

- i. **Jn 8:32** And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

- 2. I can remember the shift in SF when we started to see the fruit of labor... visitors, converts, people locking in

III CONFIDENCE IN THE WORD:

A- So, knowing all of this should give us CONFIDENCE-

- 1. That when we preach... we declare the words that have life and are powerful!

- a. You aren't declaring your own thoughts or opinions... they are God's!

- 2. Often when I counsel, correct, teach, or rebuke... I take confidence in the word of God-

- a. **2 Tim 3:16-17** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- i. We are equipped with everything we need: Wisdom, Discernment, Clarity, TRUTH!

B- Has your confidence been shaken? Has the word in your life come under attack?

- 1. Take confidence... When God speaks to you through His word, He will speak to others through you!

- 2. Ask God to give you a fresh revelation and hunger for His word...

- a. A fresh understanding for practical guidance-

- b. These are prayers He would love to answer!

- 3. When we went to Santa Fe, P Aragon asked PWM... why did you send that young punk to SF...

- a. PWM said *because he has so much faith, he doesn't know what doesn't work-*