

## **Not A Dead Word: Activating the Word of God**

**Pastor John Carmichael**

[Heb 4:11-12 NASB95] 11 Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through [following] the same example of disobedience. 12 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.

- God desires for us to walk in His rest. His rest is the manifestation of His promises in our lives.
- Hebrews 4 speaks of the rest many times. It concludes with how to walk in the rest of God.
- The medium that God uses to help us enter into His rest is the Word of God.

### **How does this living and active Word work in our lives?**

**There are three important aspects of experiencing the active word in our lives.**

#### **I. The revelation of the active Word.**

- [Heb 4:11 NASB95] 11 Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through [following] the same example of disobedience.
- It gives a call – be diligent to enter that rest. [Luk 19:48 NASB95] 48 and they could not find anything that they might do, for all the people were hanging on to every word He said.
- It promises a rest.
- It gives a warning. Not everyone who receives the Word enters into what it promises. (More on that Sunday!)

#### **II. The description of the active Word.**

- [Heb 4:12 NASB95] 12 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.
- It's a tool. "For" is an indication that the Word of God connects us to the promises.
- It's from God. The Word is not a word of man but it is the revelation of the intent of God.
- It's living and active. It has the energy to accomplish. [Isa 55:11 NASB95] 11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding [in the matter] for which I sent it.
- It's effective. Sharp and piercing. Two-edged quite literally, two-mouthed. [Rev 19:15 NASB95] 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.
- It has a purpose. It divides (separates good from bad.) It judges (gives a verdict of real intents.) A.T. Robertson – God's Word, like His eyes, sees the secret lurking doubt and unbelief.

#### **III. The activation of the active Word.**

- [Rom 10:8-10 NASB95] 8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART" that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus [as] Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.
- Activates healing. [Pro 4:20-21 NASB95] 20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart.
- Activates angels.

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- i. [Psa 103:20 NASB95] 20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!
  - ii. [Heb 1:14 NASB95] 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?
  - iii. [Psa 91:1-2, 11-12 NASB95] 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!" ... 11 For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. 12 They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone.
  - d. Activates dead things. [Eze 37:3-4 NASB95] 3 He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." 4 Again He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.'
  - e. Activates answers to prayer. [1Jo 5:14-15 NASB95] 14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us [in] whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.
  - f. Activates the transformation of disciples of Jesus.
    - i. [Col 3:10, 16 NASB95] 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him ... 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms [and] hymns [and] spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
    - ii. [1Pe 1:23 NASB95] 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, [that is,] through the living and enduring word of God.
  - g. Activates the power of God to defeat spiritual enemies. [Eph 6:18 NASB95] 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,
- We experience the manifestation of the Word of God (the rest) when we live and activate the living and active Word through belief and confession.