

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

Surgery

You're sick. I don't feel sick. Actually, I feel just fine. **I'm not talking about how you look or feel.** You're not? What are you talking about then? **I'm talking about the condition of your heart.** Is this going to be a painful discussion? **It may be. Let me ask you a question. If you knew that you were sick, would you be willing to have surgery if it would make you well?** Of course I would. **Do you think that the surgery might hurt you?** Yes, I'm sure that it would. **Why then would you be willing to subject yourself to it?** Because I would know that after a period of recovery, I would be well. **So the surgery would be worth it?** Yes, it would.

How about the surgeon, would you let just about anyone operate on you? No, I'd carefully consider their experience and track record of success. **You would need to be convinced that they knew what they were doing and had your best interests in mind?** Yes absolutely, otherwise I would never subject myself to their surgery.

How about me, how do you like my level of experience? Do you think that I know what I'm talking about? Am I experienced enough for you? What is my track record of success? You have a lot of questions today. **Yes, I do. But it comes down to one question.** What's that? **Do you trust me?** Yes Lord, I trust you. **Why is that?** I know that you love me and have my best interest in mind. I know that there is no one who has your level of wisdom, knowledge or experience. I can count on you.

Let's talk about the surgeon's tools. If the surgeon didn't have the right tools or if they were defective, would their experience or track record matter? No, I suppose that using the wrong or defective tools could bring catastrophic results. **You've got that right.**

So, if I say that you are sick, what are you going to think? I'm going to think that I'm sick. If I tell you that I want to do some surgery in your life, are you going to be afraid? No, I'm not going to be afraid because I trust you. You know what you are doing. I know that you will make me well.

The tool that I will be using in your surgery is my word. Do you think that I have the proper tool with which to operate? Yes Lord, you do. I know that your word is living and active. It is powerful. It can penetrate deep into my thoughts, motives and actions. It can change and heal my heart and transform my mind. **Yes, it can.**

The big question is will you let me operate on your heart and mind? Yes Lord, I will. But I'm not sure how to do that. **When you deeply consider my word and let it penetrate your heart, mind, and life, I will be doing surgery to make you well. The choice is yours.**

Lord, I welcome your word into my life. Use your word to change the thoughts and attitudes of my heart. Cut out of my heart and life anything that is not pleasing to you. Heal and strengthen my heart by your word so that I can live fully for you. Amen

God's Word *Living And Active*

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

NIV Hebrews 4:12

God's Word *Living And Active*

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.

ESV Hebrews 4:12

God's Word *Alive And Powerful*

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

NLT Hebrews 4:12

God's Word *Living And Powerful*

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.

NKJV Hebrews 4:12

God's Word *Living And Active*

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

NRSV Hebrews 4:12

God's Word *Powerful Word*

God means what he says. What he says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey.

MSG Hebrews 4:12

God's Word *Alive And Full Of Power*

For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.

AMP Hebrews 4:12

God's Word *Full Of Living Power*

For whatever God says to us is full of living power: it is sharper than the sharpest dagger, cutting swift and deep into our innermost thoughts and desires with all their parts, exposing us for what we really are.

TLB Hebrews 4:12

God's Word *Living And Active*

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.

NASB Hebrews 4:12

God's Word *Alive And Working*

God's word is alive and working and is sharper than a double-edged sword. It cuts all the way into us, where the soul and the spirit are joined, to the center of our joints and bones. And it judges the thoughts and feelings in our hearts.

NCV Hebrews 4:12

Living And Active

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

God's Word – Hebrews 4:12

In Context: *Read Hebrews 4*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, I welcome your word into my life. Use your word to change the thoughts and attitudes of my heart. Cut out of my heart and life anything that is not pleasing to you. Heal and strengthen my heart by your word so that I can live fully for you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How has God's word been like a light shining into a dark part of your life?

How did hearing God's word draw you to give your life to Him?

How has God's word been like a mirror to show you what He wanted you to see?

When has God's word convicted you about something improper that you were thinking, saying, or doing?

When has it felt like God was using His word to preform surgery on your heart and mind?

How has God been using His word to change your heart and transform your mind?

How has God's word changed your course and guided your steps in life?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Allow God to penetrate your thoughts, words, attitudes, and actions as you meditate on His word.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that God will use His word to change your heart and transform your mind.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how God's word is actively changing your heart and mind.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you allow God to use His word to change your heart and transform your mind.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, use your word to change my heart and transform my mind so that I can live fully for you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how do you want to use your word to change my heart and transform my mind today?
