



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – June 28, 2013

Heart to Heart...

The Hebrew writer speaks: ***“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) The word of God is living and active! It is energizing (the word active). It can cut through anything to penetrate the depths of our being. There is only one active ingredient needed: faith! We must have an abiding and committed faith in the Lord and that is where one listens to His word allowing it to penetrate the heart.

The word of God divides the soul and spirit. It is spiritual in nature! The word of God can penetrate the joints and marrow. It is the answer to our physical side! The word of God can judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. It is the answer to soundness mentally! Just read of those first century men and women that had such a level of stress on their lives just because of Jesus. We seem to struggle with stress in daily living much less daily living for Christ. We listen to every so called expert that directs us without the word of the Lord! We use them because of their profound wisdom or schooling while God speaks: ***“For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God...”*** (I Corinthians 1:21). Yet the answer for every man and woman is found in the word of the Lord. We find the answer physically, mentally and spiritually. Again, if one doesn't believe this, they are left to what the rest of the world has to help them get along whether it is pills or some mental assent.

When the word of God is used as “reference” material it will be of little value to you. If you love and respect the word of the Lord as active, powerful and piercing it will affect every avenue of your life and stability and you will find as Paul found that in the physical world he overwhelmingly conquers through Jesus (Romans 8:37). Paul didn't just get by, but overwhelmingly! Just listen to our sermons or classes where man is quoted more often as authority or a guide and God's word is used as a reference to back up man's words or thoughts. Man over God? From that point, people are left helpless and weak. You see the effects in the lives and attitudes of brethren. It leaves us to approaching life just like the world around us. Why would they ever want to come to Jesus for His cleansing **power**???

Paul spoke plainly to Timothy who was going to be the next preacher for an up-coming generation: ***“Preach the word!”*** (II Timothy 4:2) Not books, not poems, not stories that yank at our heart but do little to change lives. Preaching the word is not the preacher! It's not enthusiasm! It's not hype or a pep-rally atmosphere! It's the living God behind His living word that is active and can do what God intends it to do. The apostle Peter encouraged the saints to ***“long for the pure milk of the word that by it you may grow!”*** (I Peter 2:2) There is no substitute for growing. There is no help mentally, physically or spiritually if the word of God is placed at a lesser position.

Any time the word of the Lord is replaced with stories, testimonies and psychology, failure is not far away. We need to realize this. We tell our children to listen to us when we advise them. Guess what God is telling us? His word came from His presence to bring us into His blessings and direction. Every problem encountered and every situation faced is answered from God, if we would only put faith that He is the only source. Are we convicted of that? The result will be seen in our practice and attitude and what we reach for. Think about it!!!

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