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

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**Sunday – August 23, 2026**

## *Heart to Heart...*

**"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."** (Heb. 4:12) God's word is living and active. It is "energizing"! (The Greek word 'active' is where we get our English word 'energy'.) His word can cut through anything found in man's being and can penetrate into the unseen parts of us. To what depth does God's word operate? It depends if one has a real, genuine faith or not. It depends if one has a sincere fear of the Lord and desire for the truth.

God's word can reach to "the division of soul and spirit." It informs us the spiritual nature of God's word. His word can penetrate "joints and marrow." That informs us of the physical aspects for our lives that it can affect. God's word is "able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." It lets us know it brings mental and emotional stability. The Lord, His apostles and brethren went through many difficult situations (Heb. 11:35-38), but found an inward strength and power, mental stability and assurance in their lives. Are we missing something today?

When the word of God is used as a "tool" or "reference material", the effect on your well-being will be minimal at best. If you show respect, love and value God and His word, the stability and mental capabilities are yours in abundance. Over the years I've listened in Bible classes and sermons where all the "experts" are quoted for one thing or another to help our lives and situations we encounter. We discuss these quotes as if they are the authority! Then God's word is brought in to back up whatever issue is being dealt with. It makes me wonder why God's word isn't the authority. At best, things become diluted. It leaves the hearers helpless and, in most cases, the hearers aren't even aware of what is happening.

Any time we replace God's word with a book, stories, testimonies and psychology, failure is lurking around the corner. Whenever we want our children to listen to us we say, "Did you hear me?" Why do we think that is important in dealing with our children? We want our children to listen, take to heart and respond to our words. What about God and His word? Every problem we face, there is an answer from God. The real questions are, "Do we believe it and will we accept it?" To those of faith and fear of the Lord, it will see it in their lives. For the rest, it too will be seen. There is a reason we are reminded to "Preach the word!" (II Tim. 4:2) Think about it!!

-Brent