

Heb 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick (alive), and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The word of God is alive. Joh 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth (makes alive); the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

The word of God is powerful because it is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

It is powerful to convert souls. Psa 19:7 The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul.

It is powerful to purify us: 1Pe 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit...

It has power to edify (build up): Act 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

It is powerful to fight off temptations as a strong medicine fights off bad germs.

Matt. 4. In His temptations Christ used the Word of God 3 times to battle Satan (He knew which verse to use for each temptation).

It is powerful to comfort and give hope when despair and hopelessness grip our souls. Rom 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

The word of God is the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17). A sword is used to pierce, to put to death, to injure, to threaten, to cut away and to dissect.

The Word as a sword pierces: Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? *The Word puts down the pride of men to repent.*

It puts to death: Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members (*by the Word*) which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

It injures the wicked heart: Act 5:33 When they heard *that*, they were cut *to the heart*, and took counsel to slay them.

It divides "the joints and marrow" of our being: As a surgeon's blade has to reach deep inside the body to cut away bad parts, the Word pierces through and reaches the inner most part of our soul. Then the Word cuts away the old tumors of sin and bad habits and evil tendencies from our heart. The cutting will be painful and will take time but it will leave us in better condition.

It is used to threaten: Luk 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

The Word divides between soul and spirit. The soul is that living part of our being that can think, reason, feel, has emotions, has intensions, has conscience and can make decisions. Our soul is what animates our body to move and enables our mind to think and reason. Our spirit is our born again nature which is spiritual. Our spirit is alive to God and communicates with Him. Joh 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. *The Word of God separates what feels good to our soul from what is good for our spirit. The pleasure of sin feels good to our soul for a season but will grieve our spirit. It distinguishes excitement of our soul from edification of our spirit. The two may be quite at odds: e.g. types of music, entertainment, etc.*

The Word "is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart". The Word divides the wrong thoughts and motives from the right ones. Satan will try to mislead when we make decisions. The more important the decision we are to make the harder he tries to mislead us. For example when we consider to marry someone (the most important life decision after salvation) he knows that a wrong decision in this matter will have lifetime consequences and can greatly hinder service to Christ. Serious application of the Word and prayer will be needed to discern the thoughts and intents of our own heart and division of what is pleasing to our soul vs. what will be beneficial to our spirit. Other important decisions that will have great impact (good or bad) on our lives and service of Christ are: choosing a church, profession, friends and a place to live.

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