

A Better Way
A Better Word From God
Hebrews 4.12

Hebrews is the book of the Better Way, in Hebrews we have seen,

- **Our Superlative Savior**

- Jesus Christ is not another way to heaven
- Jesus Christ is not a better way to heaven
- Jesus Christ is the **ONLY WAY** to heaven

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- **Our Better Purging** – We are fully Pardoned from our sins when Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 1:3 - . . . by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- **Our Better Stand** – Don't Slip (2.1) Don't let the Word of God slip.
- **Our Better "So Great A Salvation"** (2.3)
- **Our Better Reconciliation** and the Defeat of the Devil (2.17)
- **Our Better Exhortation** (3) – Hear God's Voice
- **Our Better Rest** (4.1-11)

Today we discover that there is a **Better Word From God** through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Read Text

[Today we will be reminded that this Holy Bible, that you hold in your Hand, **This King James Bible**, is the inspired, infallible, inerrant, plenary Word of God.]

[This King James Bible, that I hold in my hand, was written by Almighty-God, through love and grace, for a lost sinner, corrupt and undone, destined for the eternal fires of

eternal hell, that he might read it, understand it, respond to it, repent, be saved, and be adopted into the glorious and never ending family and kingdom of my Heavenly Father. I stand here today because this Bible was penned nearly 2000 years ago.]

[In 1986, without a witnessing guide, I was handed a **King James Bible** on board the USS Trenton in Rhoda Spain. I read that Bible and received the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. My life was eternally changed, transformed, at that moment. All because our Heavenly Father, through inspiration, wrote these hallowed words of life, that I and countless others might hear Him, obey Him, and be redeemed from the tormenting fires of a relentless hell.]

- [This Word of God introduced me to my Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.]
- [This Word of God reveals my enemy, the devil, Lucifer, and all of his evil cohorts.]
- [This Word of God declares the will of God and demands my response.]
- [This Word of God displays the impending future that is near at hand; the Rapture, Tribulation Period, Millennial Reign of Christ, and the Great White Throne Judgment of God, as well as these Perilous Times we live in, and much more.]
- [This Word of God clearly declares God's plan for the ages and mankind's only hope. For there is no other name given under heaven whereby men must be saved (Acts 4.12).]

[The Word of God has,]

- **[One Problem – Sin]**
- **[One Villain – Satan]**
- **[One Hero – Our Savior, The Lord Jesus Christ]**
- **[One Purpose – Our Salvation, Which Glorifies God.]**

[This is the Word of God!]

Our text reveals that,

A. This Is The **Embodied** Word Of God (vs 12) [- **For the word of God is quick**, . . . - This means that this is the living Word of God.]

[Quick - ζῶν (gk) - (I) **To live, have life**, spoken of physical life and existence as opposed to death or nonexistence, and implying always some duration.¹]

[This Word of God is not just black letters written on a white page. This Word of God is alive, it is living, is it vivacious. By Embodied I mean that there is a life embedded within this Word of God. This hallowed text carries with it the presence of Almighty-God.]

[For the born-again Christian, and I mean only the born-again Christian; for the natural (lost) man cannot receive the spiritual things of God (1 Cor 2.10), there is a life present and presented in the hallowed pages of the Word of God. **The Holy Spirit of God moves within these pages**, invigorates these words, inspires every nuance and phrase, **and illuminates the Word of God within His people**. This is a living, embodied text. **It is quickened and alive**. Every word carries with it the personal and lively touch of God.]

[It meets us where we are, in every circumstance, on every occasion, and gives us answers. But not just any answer, **it gives us God's answers to our questions** and it reaches to every child of God regardless of their stature in the Lord Jesus Christ.]

[Saint Jerome once said,]

["The Scriptures are shallow enough for a babe to come and drink without fear of drowning, and deep enough for theologians to swim in without ever reaching the bottom."]

[In other words, you may be a new Christian, not having much experience in the Word of God, but the Word of God will meet you right where you are and will nurture and nourish you. You may be an experienced Christian having studied the Word of God for many years, and the Word of God will meet you right where you are and will move you and inspire you.]

[This quickened Word of God will meet you,

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

- **right where you are, right at the point of your need**
- **right at the moment of your desperation**
- **right at the instant of your rejoicing and praise**
- **and it will minister to you.]**

[How is this possible?]

[Because this is the living, embodied, **quicken** Word of Almighty-God.]

[This Word of God is quick! The Word of God lives!]

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A. This Is The Embodied Word of God - Quick

B. This Is The Energetic Word Of God (vs 12; Rom 12.1-2; 2 Cor 5.17; Psalm 19.8) - For the word of God is quick, **and powerful, . . . - To be powerful is to be formidable, forceful, overwhelming, overpowering, enabling, dynamic.]**

[The English word Powerful comes from the Greek word from which we get our English word **“Energy.”**]

[Powerful - ἐνεργής (gk) - from en (1722), in, and érgon (2041), work. Referring to energy, i.e., engaged in work, capable of doing, active, powerful, effective (1 Cor. 16:9; Phile. 1:6; Heb. 4:12). In Class. Gr., energés, enérgeia (energy), and the verb energeō (1754), to be at work, seem to have been used almost exclusively as medical terms referring to medical treatment and the influence of medicine.² 2]

[It means to be at work. Hence, in the Word of God we find our Heavenly Father, in all of His power and might, at work upon us.]

2 Cor 5.17

[This adds new meaning to verses like,]

[Romans 12:1–2 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: **but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.]**

² Ibid.

[The transformation that is being worked in the heart and mind of the Children of God is **the Holy Spirit of God at work** in us in supernatural, unspeakable, supernatural and powerful ways that confound rational minds.]

*[2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if any man be in Christ, **he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**]*

[We are not new creatures because we will it so. No, we are instead new creatures because the mighty power of God is working in us and on us through this mighty, living, powerful Word of God.]

- [By the powerful Word of God Moses led Israel out by the strong hand of God, leading the people of God out of Egyptian bondage.]

[What is your bondage? It is greater than our God. Our Heavenly Father can deliver you.]

- [By the powerful Word of God Elijah conquered an overwhelming number of the priests of Baal on Mount Carmel. God brought the people back to the one true God through His revealing presence.]

[What is your deception? Are you deceived by Atheism, Agnosticism, Mormonism, or any other deception? Our Heavenly Father can reveal that deception and bring you powerfully into His illuminating truth, through His powerful Word.]

*[Psalm 19:8 - The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, **enlightening the eyes.**]*

[Will you turn to the powerful Word of God and allow it to work powerfully within you?]

- C. **This Is the Expurgating Word Of God (vs 12; John 15.18-19; 1 John 3.3) - For the word of God is quick, 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.** - Wounding, expurgating, excising, pruning, editing, critical.]**

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This is,

- A. The Embodied Word of God - Quick**
- B. The Energetic Word of God - Powerful**

[Dwight L. Moody once said, “This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book.”]

[Someone has said, **“I read other books, the Bible reads me.”]**

[**To expurgate** is to edit something by removing offensive parts.³ It is to edit by cutting away those parts that offend.]

[**Sharper** – τομώτερος (gk) - sharper, **cutting incisively (NJB), cutting keenly (NEB , REB),** (Heb 4:12+)⁴. The comparative of tomós (n.f.), sharp, from témnō (n.f., see orthotomēō [3718]), to cut. Finer edged, sharper (Heb. 4:12).⁵]

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This is,

A. The Embodied Word of God - Quick
B. The Energetic Word of God - Powerful
C. The Expurgating Word of God - Cutting

[Notice here that the Word of God is sharper and it pierces and cuts deeply. This Word of God seeks to cut away everything that offends. Now it does not seek to cut away those things that seem to offend other people, **instead it seeks to cut away everything that offends Almighty-God.** The Word of God has as its goal the pleasing of God. So the Word of God seeks to conform us to God rather than men.]

[Therefore, in making us pleasing to God the Word of God will make us offensive to every worldly and lost man.]

[Jesus said,]

[John 15:18–19 - If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.]

[1 John 3:13 - Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.]

³ Expurgate, Encarta Dictionary.

⁴ James Swanson, Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament), electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

⁵ Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

[Don't make the mistake of thinking that a mature Christian is someone that the whole world loves. God's Word does not seek to us make acceptable to the world, it seeks to make us pleasing to our Heavenly Father.]

[Now, how does the Word of God work on us, transform us, expurgate us?]

[Hebrews 4.12 . . . piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, . . .]

[It pierces to our joints and marrow, that is way down deep. It divides the soul and spirit, that is to the core of our being. The Quick, Powerful, Piercing Word of God gets right to the heart and core of who we are and it works on us. It transforms us from who we once were, into the person our Heavenly Father wants us to be.]

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This is,

A. The Embodied Word of God - Quick

B. The Energetic Word of God - Powerful

C. The Expurgating Word of God - Cutting

[The Word of God pierces and cuts us, like a surgeons knife, expurgating us, cutting away everything that offends our Heavenly Father.]

[Now, some people like who they are and they don't want to be transformed by the Word of God. My friend this is to rebel against the God who loves you with a love no one in this world could ever have for you. We would be wise to yield to the will of God in our lives, for the will of God will bring us into the place of greatest blessings and glory. A wise Christian wants for himself whatever their Heavenly Father wants for them.]

[My friends, the Word of God will seek to change you. It will convict you, it will work on you, it will transform you. You should want the Word of God to be at work upon you.]

- D. This Is The Establishing Word Of God (vs 12) - For the word of God is quick, 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. - Discriminating, judicious, perceptive, differentiating, observing, detecting.]**

[The Word of God reveals the very heart and need of each child of God. It looks deep within us and searches the intents of our heart. We would call these intents

our motives. God's knows more about us than we know about ourselves and our Heavenly Father seeks to reveal us to ourselves.]

1 Pet 2.2

[Our Heavenly Father wants us to understand His will and way for us and He seeks to reveal His will through the Word of God.]

[Now some people might say, "Pastor I just have trouble understanding parts of the Bible.]

[It has been said, To understand the part of the bible you don't understand is to obey the part you do understand, and before long you'll begin to understand what you didn't understand. Understand?]

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This is,

- A. The Embodied Word of God - Quick**
- B. The Energetic Word of God - Powerful**
- C. The Expurgating Word of God - Cutting**
- D. The Establishing Word of God - Transforming**

[God's goal is not that you should be confused about His Word and Will, He wants you to understand Him so that you can love and obey Him. He reveals Himself to us through His written Word and the illuminating presence of the Holy Spirit within you.]

[Now we have examined much of what our text reveals about the Glorious Word of God this morning. But this Word of God cannot do anything for you if you do not hunger and thirst for the Word of God.]

[1 Peter 2:2 - As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:]

[Psalm 119:103 - How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!]

[Out text reads,]

[Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is quick, 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.]

[Are you hungry for the Word of God?]

[Do you have a personal God and I Time?]

[Are you reading the whole Word of God?]

[Are you hungry and thirsty for the Word of God?]

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Aug 30, 2021
CrossRoads Baptist, Dec 1, 2013

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