

The Word IS ALIVE – It Speaks! (Hebrews 4:12)

Hook: Imagine waking up **every day with a guarantee** you'll receive sound advice, wisdom that never fails. We crave guidance, don't we? We search for it on Google, scroll endlessly on TikTok and Instagram, listening to influencers, experts, and friends. But here's the real question: Can we truly trust it? We don't need opinions—**we need truth**. Time-tested, guaranteed-to-work truth, life giving truth. So where do you turn when you need sound advice?

Recently, I was visiting my daughter, Summer, in OKC, having a great time with grandkids and family. Target runs, lunch dates, went to church services, band concert, visiting my dad and brother. On day six, she hits me with:

- **“Mom, you need a new handbag. How old is this... thing? It's not even qualified to be a purse.”**
- Excuse me? This backpack-purse has been my unshakeable go to. **“I like it,”** I say. **“Dad got it for my birthday in Sonora.”**
- She squints. **“How long ago?”**
- **“It's been with me for six years. Crossed state lines, survived airport security, witnessed countless weddings, funerals, church services—you name it. It's sturdy, reliable. It just needs a little freshening up.”**
- Summer doesn't hold back. **“Mom... you need a new purse, that bag gives off vintage hippie hobo vibes.”**
- What! That's some unfiltered daughter honesty.
- I protested and resisted, reflected, and maybe there was a little peer pressure, I walked **into Target with my faithful old hippie backpack.**
- I walked out with a new purse.

Where do we go for TRUTH?

PRAY: Through Your mercy Jesus, reveal that Your Word is tried and true. We can trust Your Word to speak to us. Come and teach us something new in through Your Word. In Jesus name, amen

Slide *John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it.

The WORD is Jesus. He has always been and will always be.

V3 through Him all things were made – He was at creation, co- creating with God and the Holy Spirit. The Bible begins with Jesus at creation with God the Father and the HS, and the Bible ends with Jesus coming again in the book of Revelation.

This is the Word of God given to the Apostle John,

(hold up Bible)

“To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.”

(slide) *2 Timothy 3:16 ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Meaning: God implanted His thoughts into the human author who were called scribes.

- God communicated His Word to 40 different authors, over a span of about 1500 years.
- How do we know that the original text has been preserved? That God's voice has not been compromised through human translation?
- Today there are More than 5,000 Greek manuscripts of the NT. What ancient book is second: Homer's Iliad with 643 copies.

SLIDE *Overall, 97-99% of the New Testament can be reconstructed beyond any reasonable doubt . . Craig Blomberg, NT scholar and author of Reasonable Faith.

- WANT PROOF: Let's go on a Field Trip this summer to see the Dead Sea Scrolls, ancient manuscripts of Scripture at a museum in Simi Valley. Journey the Bible July 15 Workshop

STORY: A bit of my history

When I was 21, I believed in the inerrancy of the Bible – Scripture was God breathed. I knew Bible facts: Methuselah was the longest living person and died at 969 years; I knew Enoch and Elijah did not experience death and were taken by God into heaven.

- I could argue doctrine
- I could use Scripture to prove my point

Basically, I was in the DARK . . .but did not understand that I was to listen for the voice of Jesus? (opened word listen personal voice of Jesus)

YA Retreat: We had the YA Retreat this weekend in near Pinecrest. Beautiful!

- I'm proud of these YA's
- Have conversations about Jesus with co-workers, or initiate a conversation with new people they meet.

"To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."

- One part of the retreat is stargazing. This sweet cabin is nestled in a forest at the end of a road. Looking up at the night sky filled with stars is breathtaking, **but it's dark**
- You can't see the person standing in front of you.
- **But we can hear one another's voices.**
- This what Jesus was teaching me as a 27 yr old YA
- Just b/c I couldn't see Jesus didn't mean He wasn't actively SPEAKING. INTO MY LIFE.
-

When you open up His Word; Jesus is there ready speak.

Slide*You can trust the WORD to SPEAK to you (turn neighbor)
(animate to follow)

Slide *Isaiah 30:21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

- Sounds like Jesus lights your path,
(Pause, turn head, listen) **YOUR EARS WILL HEAR A VOICE BEHIND YOU**
 - (Turn right) "This is the way; walk in it."
 - (Turn left) "This is the way; walk in it."

He longs to speak, and give you a Word, and light your path.

This is a process.

This is what the Bible is – God's Word teaching us how God speaks to us.

STORY: a few months ago, I was at a restaurant eating lunch with a good friend. Halfway through our meal, a group walked in—about **14 people**. I recognized **three** of them, and my friend knew **one**. But something was **strange**—no one acknowledged us. We were **right there**, beside the register where they were ordering, but not a single glance came our way.

We could have **stood up**, walked over, and **said hello**.
But we didn't. We just **kept eating**.

In my head, I wrestled with it:

"Wow, I don't understand this..."

My **human pride** took over:

- **They overlooked me? Fine, I won't acknowledge them either.**

At the same time, a deeper voice was **asking the real question:**

- **What is the right thing to do?**

The WORD Confronts Our Flesh – "love others as yourself"

- **The Word argues with your selfish side.**

"To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."

- **The Word calls you** to do the **right thing**, even when it's uncomfortable.

I knew the right thing to do.

Even though **my stubborn pride** resisted, Jesus **activated my feet**.

So, I walked over to their **table of 14**—and **said hello**.

The conversation lasted **two minutes**.

But it mattered.

Ten minutes later, I was back at work, sitting at my desk—

DRAWN TO my YouVersion To open my daily devotional

The topic?

Rejection—the sting of being overlooked.

(Pause)

Verse of the day: Mark 12:10 Jesus talking to His disciples:

“Haven’t you read this passage of Scripture?

**‘The Stone the builders regarded as unworthy and rejected—
this very stone has become the chief cornerstone.’”**

Jesus the Word was **rejected**.

Jesus the Word was dismissed by the **Pharisees**

Jesus the Word was **overlooked, by the world**

And yet—**His purpose remained.**

Jesus, The Word keeps working.

Repeatedly Jesus has taught me His WORD is TRUE

**Isaiah 30:21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear
a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”**

SLIDE ***The WORD speaks to your situation.**

THE **Word is ALIVE AND ACTIVE.**

**Slide *For the word of God is *alive* 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**

- ***ACTIVE – energace’ – translation “AT-WORK” full of energy
energized**

Energace resembles what English word? Energy

“To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.”

From Energio: working in a situation which brings it from one stage (point) to the next, like an electrical current powering a light bulb energizing a wire, bringing it to a shining light bulb.

Like the energy like an electrical current that powers this LAMP.

The Word is ALIVE - (tell someone)

The Word is ALIVE powered by GOD

The Word is not just ink on a page

- It has **energy**—it moves you, to bring a verse or a lyric to mind
 - I sought the LORD, on the authority of His Word, and He heard and He answered Ps 34:4 (AMP)
- It has staying power – it impacts the **mind and heart and doesn't fade**
- Has the power to move you feet and heart to do the right thing
- Has the power propel you to breakthrough

Jesus invites us to plug into the power source of HIS WORD.

So we know which direction to go. So we know how to react when we're rejected. So we know what do to when we find ourself in a dark place.

- **OPEN THE WORD** – draw near (to me and I will draw near to you James 4:8)

Invite my friend Chris Perez to the stage (5 min)

How have you experienced drawing near to Jesus?

- **Isaiah 43:18-21**
- **How did you know it was Jesus speaking to your situation?**
- **How did you experience Him in the moment?**
- Thank you Chris!

Dig into the Word ... listen ... is a learning process.
the WORD will speak – give you a WORD for your situation

The Word isn't passive—it's alive and active.

- **POWERED BY GOD**

It shifts the atmosphere overcomes obstacles.

That's exactly what happens in Mark 2. (A paralyzed man needed a breakthrough and his friends understood one thing: If they could just get him near Jesus, the Word)

"To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."

***Mark 2:1-3** When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. ²Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching **God's word** to them ³**four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat.**

People stand shoulder to shoulder, leaning in—desperate to hear every word Jesus speaks. Even outside the door, the crowd strains to catch His voice.

What was Jesus preaching style? Preaching style . . . charismatic, shout, conversation like, talk in a thoughtful, quiet voice, lecture, humor.

People were drawn to JESUS

Jn 12:19 the Pharisees said, “the whole world is running after him.”

- **What was He preaching? – v 2: “God’s word.”**

(Ricardo play)

- *the same Word that spoke creation into EXISTENCE, spoke to disciples, crowds speaks today.*

Slide (2:4-7) *Mark 2:4⁴ They couldn’t bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head.

!!!!These men believe that if they can get their friend

- **NEAR** to Jesus,
- close enough to hear the **WORD**, something will happen.

Meanwhile Tiles cracking, dust filling the air—people gasping as a paralyzed man is lowered right into the middle of Jesus’ sermon.

⁵ Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “My child, your sins are forgiven.”

- Everyone thought Jesus would heal the man the man so he could walk. That’s the miracle people were expecting.
- Jesus saw what no one else could see. Jesus saw a brokenness on the inside and outside.
- Jesus knew the man would remain in darkness until his sins were forgiven

He needed the light of Jesus, so he could walk out of that house knowing he was a loved, valued, and forgiven

JESUS the WORD spoke to the man’s situation

“To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.”

The paralyzed man **came near to Jesus.**

TO hear the WORDS of Jesus -- YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN

TAKE UP YOUR MAT AND WALK!

Some of you are searching for direction, for an answer – looking for answers on social media, searching online for the best advice –

Open the WORD! Draw near to JESUS.

It's ALIVE

It has the power to breathe new life into your bones, into your family.

The same Word that told this man 'Get up and walk' is speaking to you right now!

Has a specific word for you . receive a word

**YOU can trust the Word (Bible) is from Jesus that He is talking to you today
His Word will never fail you**

I sought the LORD and He heard and HE answered – He will.

The WORD speaks to YOUR SITUATION because the WORD is JESUS who loves you.

**Slide: * The WORD speaks to your situation.
When will you meet Him in the WORD?**