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# Light & Salt

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## Living Words

*"For the word of God is living and active"* (Hebrews 4:13\*)

George Washington is reported to have said, "I cannot tell a lie, I chopped down the cherry tree." We know the story: George's father found the tree cut down and asked who would have done such a thing. Little George finally admitted he was the culprit and, supposedly, took the corrective action his father ordered.



Some will dispute the story. Some will do research in the library or the Internet. Many will accept what is said or written, because they have confidence in the person telling the story.

How can we be sure that the words recorded in the Bible are true? How can we know that God's word is living and active?

The way we accept or reject the words reportedly written about George Washington is similar to the way we accept or reject the words written in the Bible. We have faith (confidence) in the source!

The Apostle Thomas put his finger into the place of the nail that held Jesus to the cross. Then he put his hand into the place where the sword drained our Savior's blood from His dying body.

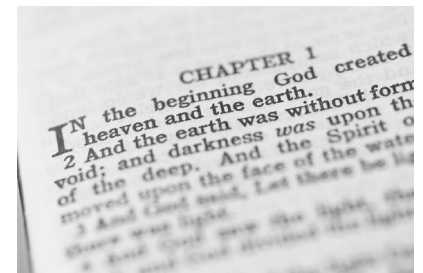
When Thomas saw and felt the wounds, he believed and confessed that Jesus was his Lord. The physical evidence convinced Thomas. Jesus said, "*Because you have seen Me have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.*" (John 20:28-29\*)

We need to go beyond the physical senses of touch, taste, smell, sight, and hearing with God's word. With His help, we can enter a spiritual world of living words where we accept by faith, (confidence in God) the Word He has for us.

Jesus said, "*All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Son wills to reveal Him*" (Luke 10:22\*) Jesus, as You work in our lives, reveal Yourself to us through the living Word!

Our physical eyes can only see what God allows us to see. Our ears can hear what God allows. His word can only make sense to those whom Jesus has chosen to reveal it!

Would we be wise to remember this as we find ourselves about to criticize the ones who work to bring us the word that God has revealed to them? Would we be better to ask Jesus to reveal the living word to them, or ourselves?



*“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. And there is not a creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do”* (Hebrews 4:12-13\*)

Imagine a word so powerful that it can divide our soul from the spirit! That same word can separate the joint from the marrow in our bones. The living word can judge the very thoughts we think. That word knows the real intention of our planned action! Even if we know not the reason for the action we plan, God does.

God can help us to think about the thing we are about to do. Will our act bring dishonor and humiliation upon someone? Sure we may be right, or so we think. The question we need to ask is, will the thing bring dishonor upon the Name of the, *“eyes of Him with whom we have to do”*? The old saying that has been around since 50BC proves true, “Those that act in haste may need to repent in leisure”.

As we ponder our action, do we believe it will bring encouragement to someone so desperately needing help? If we are able to help, let's keep it a secret between ourselves, the other party, and God. God will be pleased and honored that His child did the right thing.



The Holy Spirit directs us to a revelation in the beginning of the Gospel credited to the writings of John. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He (the Word) was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being, In Him was life, and the life was the light of men”* (John 1:1-4\*)

*“In the beginning”* was a point, where the invisible, formless all-powerful entity we call God began a work. Can our finite minds really grasp the depth of meaning in the three little words, *“In the beginning”*? Lord, as you lead, help us to ponder the great truths within your living words.

One scholar stated there are dimensions we cannot understand with a mind that has been reduced to about 5% efficiency. To the inquiring mind, we can look forward to a point when we will be free from our present space and time dimensions. As we enter new spiritual dimensions, perhaps we can begin to “see” things beyond our present ability.

For now, we know that, according to the Scripture, the Word was there *“in the beginning”*. We know also that the living Word existed with God and created all things.

Will God let us see that the Word was God? Not a God, but the same supreme Divinity we met in Hebrews. The Word in Hebrews 4 and John 1 is none other than God, manifested in the physical as Jesus. The Word can be understood as another name for Jesus, a name defining His nature.

God wants to reveal to us that He and the Word cannot be separated; God is His Word, His Word is God. Our understanding of God's sovereign will for us comes through His living Word.

God's will is that the Word will become living and active within us. He will penetrate to the division of our spirit from our soul and scrutinize the very thoughts and intentions of our heart. We need His living words in our troubled world, nation, and more personally, within us!

Lord, *“Establish my footsteps in Thy Word”* (Psalm 119:133\*)

Comments by Harry Bain

\* New American Standard Bible