

# The Word Of God

## Living And Active

Reading: [Matthew 13:18-23](#)

Text: [Hebrews 4:12-13](#)

### Introduction:

I have known a lot of people over the years. Some have been my mentors, teachers, and friends. Over the years I have seen people who are as faithful as any I've known to leave the faith. As you can imagine, it bothers me greatly. Why would they leave? Why would the suddenly no longer desire to live for God? The truth is, it did not happen quickly or suddenly, even though it may have seemed that way to me. Something got to them over a period of time and it finally became obvious to me and to others when they finally made a decision to "go public."

It should not be a shock to us that know the word of God because Jesus himself said it would happen. We just didn't think about it in such personal ways. The story of the 4 types of ground in [Matthew 13](#) illustrate that there are some people who receive God's word well, but most don't. [Matthew 7:13-14](#) "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are **many**. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are **few**."

In Matthew 13, the story of the sower, it becomes clear by Jesus' explanation that even those who hear the word and obey it may at some point leave. It disturbs me tremendously. I can understand it when people who initially hear it say, "nah, it's not for me." But I have a harder time understanding why people who believe it give up on it. Jesus gave the answer in this parable, but I didn't really notice it or really think about it until lately. Here's Jesus explanation:

[Matthew 13:20-22](#) As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet **he has no root in himself**, but endures for a while, and when **tribulation** or **persecution** arises on account of the word, immediately **he falls away**. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but **the cares of the world** and **the deceitfulness of riches choke the word**, and it proves unfruitful.

Did you hear that second one? "The cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the WORD and it proves unfruitful." It is our relationship with the WORD that is at risk! It is our attention to the WORD that determines the strength of our faith. The WORD was taken from the heart on the hard ground. Those with no root in himself could not take the tribulation or persecution on account of the WORD!

[James 1:21](#) Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted **word**, which is able to **save your souls**.

According to James we can either keep filthiness and wickedness or we can re receive with meekness the implanted word. We cannot do both! We cannot have the word to the saving of our souls AND continue in evil! If you remember, Jesus told about his second coming, that people would be eating and drinking, and marrying and giving in marriage until the Son of Man comes! [Matthew 24:38-39](#) He compared it to the flood, nobody paid any attention to the WORD of God until it was too late and they were swept away!

## 1. The Word of God is Living And Active

[Hebrews 4:12-13](#) For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow

- It is important to know that the word of God is **not just words**
  - The Word of God is LIVING AND ACTIVE!
  - The Word of God is "GOD BREATHED" and profitable
  - The Word of God causes things to happen: God spoke and there was light.
  - The Word of God produces LIFE. God spoke and there was LIFE
  - The Word of God produces IMMORTALITY

[1 Thessalonians 2:13](#) And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as **what it really is, the word of God**, which is **at work** in you believers.

- The Word of God WORKS, it is not idle
- We not only need to listen to the Word of God; we need to be filled with it!

## 2. The Word of God Discerns The Thoughts Of The Heart

[Hebrews 4:12-13](#) For the word of God discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- Do you understand why so many people are offended by the word of God?
  - The Word of God Judges us. It convicts us! There are only 2 responses to that:

[Acts 2:36-37](#) Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were **cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

[Acts 7:53-54](#) you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him.

- A few people will absorb the Word, but MOST will respond negatively
  - Most of us don't like to know what's wrong with us: Even in our physical health people will not go to a doctor, "because he will find something wrong with me!"
  - Most people are hardened by the deceitfulness of sin like the rocky ground
  - For those who are willing to open their hearts to the word, the word is like a surgeon's scalpel and will safely operate on the heart to cleanse it of all that will destroy it.

## 3. The Word of God Will Judge Us

[Hebrews 4:12-13](#) For the word of God exposes us to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

- One Day, there will be a final judgment. All of us will be there. All of us will be judged.
- Let me ask you, do you want to hear the WORD of God NOW when you can do something about it? Or before His throne when you cannot?
  - The Wise decision would be to do something NOW

[Romans 10:17](#) So then faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- **Hear the word of Christ: Romans 5:8** God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- He that believes and is baptized shall be saved [Mark 16:16](#)