



PRESSING ON

TO MATURITY

A Study of the Book of Hebrews

TRUTH THAT TRANSFORMS
HEBREWS 4:12-13

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Introduction: What is the secret for experiencing God’s blessing or “rest” in every area of our life? Today we are going to discover the answer to that question in one of the most familiar, but also most misunderstood, passages in the book of Hebrews.

I. The Context of This Passage

Hebrews 4:12 “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.”

Hebrews 4:1 “Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.”

A Review of the Three “Rests” in Hebrews 4

A. Our Future Rest

Hebrews 4:8-9 ⁸ “For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. ⁹ There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God.”

B. Our Past Rest

Hebrews 4:10 “For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.”

C. **Our Present Rest**

Hebrews 4:11 “Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall, through following the same example of disobedience.”

Hebrews 4:12-13 ¹² “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. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

Proverbs 4:23 “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” (NIV)

Proverbs 23:7 “For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.” (NKJV)

II. **The Power of God’s Word**

Hebrews 4:12 “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.”

A. **Three Characteristics of God’s Word**

Hebrews 4:12a “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword...”

1. **It is living**
2. **It is active**
3. **It is sharp**

Romans 1:16-17 ¹⁶ “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘BUT THE RIGHTEOUS MAN

SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

Romans 11:33-34 ³³ “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?”

B. The Conviction of God’s Word

Hebrews 4:12b-13 ^{12b} “...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. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

III. Principles from This Passage

A. View God’s Word as Medicine, Not Poison

B. Allow God’s Word to Perform Its Work

Conclusion