

The Bible claims to be God's word. In some sections God's words literally written down. Jesus words recorded. In other sections men write under inspiration of HS or convey what they have seen or experienced of God's workings. The Bible claims to be a living thing. Not metaphorically.

Hebrews 4:12 - "For the word of God is living...

What makes something living? 6 characteristics to consider:

1. **Organization:** multiple parts that are organized and work together
2. **Metabolism:** processes to convert energy and sustain life.
3. **Growth and Development:** growth and development according to encoded specific instructions.
4. **Reproduction:** the ability to reproduce and pass on information to offspring.
5. **Response to Stimuli:** to environmental changes
6. **Homeostasis:** ability to maintain a stable internal environment despite external changes.

All of these apply to the word of God.

1 P 1:23 - Peter likens the word of God to an incorruptible seed that when planted in us becomes the means by which we are born again – *indestructible, not going to disintegrate or become infertile*. Dormant not dead. Life is inside the seed and there is not a storm, temperature, pH that it will not endure. "It lives and abides forever." As the seed sprouts its roots grow- picture those roots penetrating dark areas in my mind, life; new life to what it touches

- John 6:63 *"The words I speak to you are Spirit and they are life."*

To help us understand: Genesis 1:2- Spirit of God hovering over the face of waters. Then God speaks the Words – Let there be ... and there is – Creation: **the Spirit of God**, the word, life – go together.

*"...for the letter kills, but **the Spirit gives life**."* 2 Corinthians 3:6

They aren't to be separated- the HS makes God's word *alive*, effective, life-giving. **1 Thess 2:13 (KJV)** "...the word of God, ***effectually works*** also in you that believe." effectually works = power to do, successful: what it says is what becomes

"It is the Holy Spirit that makes the Word of God effectual." — *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 63.

"Only as the Holy Spirit shall come into our hearts and impress the truth upon them, will the Word be effectual." (experienced) — *Gospel Workers*, p. 284.

"The Holy Spirit is the only effectual teacher of divine truth... Without the Spirit, the Word of God cannot be understood." — *Signs of the Times*, October 3, 1892.

"The preaching of the Word will be of no avail without the continual presence and aid of the Holy Spirit... It is the Spirit that makes the truth vitalizing... giving it power to sanctify the soul." — *The Desire of Ages*, p. 671.

"The Holy Spirit is needed to give power to the Word of God." — *RH*, April 30, 1901.

Hebrews 4:12 "the word of God is living and powerful" through the Spirit.

"Our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost." 1 Th 1:5 The word and the Spirit agree.

In Gen 1 we saw the HS hovering in anticipation ready to make effectual the word of God. Now I want you to picture the HS hovering over every human – when that person hears God's word, allows those words entrance, the word becomes a living, active force that creates. Creation not moral Evolution. The Christian experience is not a give me enough time to evolve into a better person so I can be saved. Yes, the seed is planted it takes time to grow, mature but it is what it is as soon as it sprouts. the Christian experience is one in which the power of the word + HS to create. Create in me a clean heart.

Hebrews 4:12 ... *Sharper than any double-edged sword*

Rev 1:16 – visual of Jesus- a sharp two-edged sword coming out of his mouth. Why so sharp, doubled edged?

Heb 4:12 pierces even to ***dividing*** soul and spirit, joints and marrow;

- Joints where two things are held together – strong, tough, fibrous **ligaments, tendons, and cartilage** - designed to withstand intense force and movement, so separating them is not easy.
- marrow is **inside the bone**, difficult to reach. bone= the hardest tissue

Heb 4:12- this **dividing** *soul and spirit is about;... is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*

Rev 2:12 – the One with the two-edged sword coming out of his mouth says that He knows- discerns with accuracy truth from lies. We have mingled idolatry with our worship of God, we have interlaced our self-centered, ego-driven tumors with growing seed – and the Heavenly surgeon uses the scalpel to remove them that we might be set free. – The carnal, self-centered malignancy removed.

Heb 4:13 - There is no creature hidden from His sight but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him... no one and *nothing hidden- the closest relationships: transparency, no secrets.* This is the effect of the word of God

This is what makes God's word the most powerful weapon ultimately against evil.

Eph 6:17 - the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God,

weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds 2 Cor 10:4

John 1 – the Word became flesh...

Rev 19:13 –His name is called The Word of God... always every moment of His life, connected to the HS.

Jesus said “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me... Lk 4:18

That's how and why every claim is true.