

Sermon: **Voice of Wisdom**

Scripture: **Hebrews 4:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. (NRSV)

-----

I have been sharing how to hear God's voice. To hear God's voice, every person must accept Christ as the Savior, and pray sincerely with the expectation of His voice, which would be in many ways. As we hear His voice, we must discern if the voice is from the Lord. Otherwise, it could be merely from my desire or even Satan's voice.

God sent the Holy Spirit to help and communicate with us. He delivers messages from the Father God and helps us to practice the lifestyle of faithfulness, patience, and gentleness in Christ. Because our Father knows it is not easy to live a spiritual life, the Holy Spirit God guides us and talks to us through the Word of God and prayer.

I am going to share one more lesson of how powerful the Word of God is and how we can take the Word as the voice of Wisdom.

1. The Word of God is living and active

In here, the Greek word for 'living' is 'zao,' which means 'to live alive and experience God's gift of life.' In other words, 'living' is not just an extension of life, but it is God's gift, which has life-giving power. We know, when God created Adam out of mud, He breathed His life-giving breath into Adam so that he became a living being. That is why we have a special human soul and spirit even though we physically look like other animals.

Unfortunately, now some scientists try to treat the human body the same as the animal body in the name of 'extending and saving physical life.' Since they can not understand the fact that the human body is connected to God's special soul and spirit, they can treat the human body the same as animal body.

The Greek word for active is 'energes,' which means 'effectively energized or full of energy.' If we translate the sentence of 'The Word of God is living and active,' we can say, "The Word of God is the gift of God which gives the life to the dead and effectively energizes the human life." It is the gift of God; it gives life to the dead, and it energizes human life. How powerful God's Word is! Praise the Lord!

I found an example of how powerful the Word of God is in Ezekiel 37:4-5. He heard the voice of the Lord, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these [dead] bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life." Just like this, the Word of God is alive and gives life for the dead people. It gives you and me the life in Christ.

Do you know who the last person rescued from the 9/11 disaster was? Genelle Guzman. She wrote her survival story in May 2002, Guideposts.

When the building was hit, she was working on the 64<sup>th</sup> floor. As she and other workers heard and felt the earthquake-like noise, they found out what happened to the building and took the stairways to go down. When they were near the ground, the building was collapsed and knocked down her and other workers. As she was stuck among the debris, she knew what happened. She called other people, but no one answered around her.

As she couldn't move and found no one was alive, a fear of death fell upon her. She couldn't think of anything but the prayer of her mother, "*Lord, be near me. Stay by my side.*" She said, "I talked to God the way Mom talked to him, as if He were right there with me and knew what it was like to be alone and afraid and hurting. Finally I slept. The return of that faint ray of light told me it was morning. Without food or water, I knew I wouldn't be able to stay alive much longer."

She prayed again, "*Lord, I might not get out of here. Not without a miracle. But I have found you, and that's [the only miracle that matters](#). Thy will be done.*" As she prayed, she heard a noise. There was a man above her. He said, "My name is Paul. Just hang on. They are going to get you out of there."

She continued, "Each time, fear surge, Paul squeezed my hand, and I felt peace return." After all, she was rescued. When she was looking for Paul, however, there was no one named Paul in the rescue team. She believed Paul was an angel.

Because she was a Christian with faith, she could remember and pray with faith in such a desperate moment, "But I have found you, and that's [the only miracle that matters](#). Thy will be done." She wrote another testimony 10 years later. She was still sure that she heard the voice of an angel from the Lord.

Her testimony reminds us that we can hear God's voice as we pray wholeheartedly. The voice of God gives life to His children. Praise the Lord!

2. His Word is sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow;

We know, in the O.T., the priest gave sacrifice as a burnt offering. As he prepared the sacrifice, he had to separate each part of the animal's body, depending on the usage. He had to cut the fat, meat, bonds, and other parts according to the instruction. Some parts will be given as a burnt offering, and other parts will be saved for food and other uses in the temple. For this job, his knife must be extra-sharpened.

I know many of our church members had knee surgery. Last week, Vera had one too. I am sure the surgeon must be very skillful and very reliable, and he must cut the area and probably remove some troubled tissues and replace them with better and stronger parts. I am sure he must use a very sharp razor. Otherwise, he may not be able to do the job well.

Today's scripture says that God's Word is even sharper than any of those human-made sharp knives so that it can even do the surgery on the invisible soul and spirit from our body. No surgeon can do it. Only God can do it. Amen!

Why is our God telling us about this kind of surgery on us? While a surgeon can operate and treat a small part of our physical body, our God operates on our invisible soul and spirit using His Word, treats our sinful nature, and gives us new life in Christ. This is the true power of God's Word.

There are no doctors and any other religions can heal our soul and spirit and give us true and eternal life. Only God can do it using His Word. That is why we must read the Bible and believe it because it is sharper than the priest's double-edged sword and much more powerful than surgeons. Praise the Lord!

### 3. God's Word is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

We know Abraham Lincoln's mother died when he was 9 years old. She left a small Bible to him. He read the Bible over and over as he thought about his mother. To him, the Bible was the best teacher and mentor for his earthly life and his eternal life. He learned the wisdom of life in general, including how to deal with people and how to overcome all kinds of challenges from this world.

In 1860, when he was elected to be the president, he put his hand on his mother's Bible and swore his presidency as he opened Psalm 34:4, "I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." He carried this verse for his lifetime. I know many of our church members memorize Bible verses and keep them as guidelines in everyday life. I am sure our Lord blesses them more.

He read the Bible and prayed even more during the Civil War. In 1864, some people presented Lincoln with a gift of a Bible. He replied to them, "In regard to this great book,

I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book." Amen!

He learned and knew that God inspired His people through the Word of God. He became one of the living examples who received the tremendous benefits of knowing the Word of God.

As Lincoln did, we want to meditate the Word, too; especially, when we have more challenges in our life.

I like to give you of an example how we read and meditate the Word. When we read the Word, we need to take it as God's voice and receive it as if the Lord talks to me, not to others. For instance, when we read the story of the prodigal son, I know I am the prodigal son. I am the one who needs to repent and come to the Lord with a humble heart.

What if I lose everything like him? Can I think of the Father God like him? Would I have the courage to rise up and go back to my Father? Probably, I will not until I have not many choices and become desperate. That is why sometimes God allows me to suffer until I repent and restore myself in Christ.

At the time, I would really repent my foolishness and reckless behavior. As I repent to my Father, I know I can have true joy in Christ. I won't need to suffer from guilt anymore. I know my Father will forgive me as long as I sincerely repent. He will give me another chance because He is God of love, and I am His child.

As I think of His grace, my soul is full of grace and becomes a thankful heart. Then I feel like I can forgive anyone and love everyone around me in the love of Christ.

---

This is my thought process as I read the Word now. If I read it again, I may come up with different thoughts. That is why we need to read the Word over and over.

We know God has given us the power to hear the voice of the wisdom from Him because He healed our soul and spirit with His powerful spiritual-knife through the work of the Holy Spirit as in 1 Corinthians 2:12, "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God."

Let's recommit our life to the Lord by reading and meditating the Word. As Abraham Lincoln did, let's take the Word of God as the voice of Wisdom in our everyday life so that we all can have the power and blessings from it and live a victorious life in Christ. Amen!