

# The Power of God's Word

# Hb.4:12, characteristics of God's Word

- Living: always relevant to our needs
- Powerful: Gn.1-2 illustrates
  - **Powerful but does not crush free will.**
  - Ac.7:51, **resist**: You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

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  - Ep.4:30, **grieve**: And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

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  - 1 Th.5:19-20, **quench**: <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies.

## Hb.4:12, characteristics of God's Word

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  - **Powerful but does not crush free will.**
  - Hb.10:29, **insult**: Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

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    - 1 Th.5:19-20, **quench**
    - Hb.10:29, **insult**
- Sharper: Gn.22:12 ... Hb.11<sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.

Ro.1:16, power  
to save those  
who are willing

I. Most people do not believe  
the power of God's word

# Some seek extraordinary experiences ("surpass mere words")

- 2 K.5, Naaman: disappointed in content of God's words.
- Lk.16, rich man: disappointed in weakness / ineffectiveness of God's words.
- 1 Co.10, Israel: witnessed miracles; most did not leave wilderness, because of unbelief.

Saw miracles before reaching wilderness, and during it, yet most never reached promise land



I. Most people do not believe power of God's word

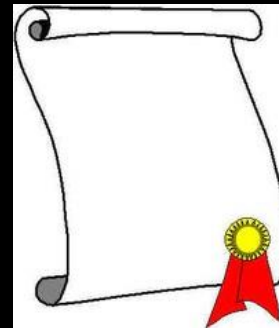
II. Examples of the power  
of God's word

# Word displays power in various ways

- Mk.4:35-41, tempest had no choice...
- Lk.8:11, seed is Word
- Jn.11:43, Lazarus (Col.2:12-13)
- Hb.1<sup>3</sup> who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

# Word displays power in various ways

- Mt.4:1-11, power of word over satan
- Ac.20:32, So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
- 2 Th.2:15, Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.



I. Most people do not believe power of God's word

II. Examples of the power of God's word

III. Explains importance God places on His word

# Preach the word

- 2 Tim.4<sup>1</sup> I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching.
- “We need new gospel for modern age”
- Physical: food, clothes, shelter.
- Spiritual: forgiveness, guidance, blood of Christ... Mt.24:35

# New birth

- Jn. 1<sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- Not due to **blood** (physical descent)
- Not will of **flesh** (human desire for children)
- Not will of **man** (husband's desire for family)
- 1 Pt. 1<sup>23</sup> having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.

# Made alive from spiritual death

- Jn.6<sup>63</sup> It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.
  - Jn.5<sup>24</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.
  - Jn.5<sup>46</sup> For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.  
<sup>47</sup> But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?

# Faith

- Ac.15<sup>7</sup> And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: “Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.
- Our creed (what we believe)



# Pure heart

- Ac.15<sup>9</sup> And made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.
- Our character (what we are)
- People will not change unless heart is changed
  - Gospel achieves this – Ac.2:37ff

# Conversion

- Ps.19<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul...
  - Perfect Law: sum of God's commands.
  - Converting: restoring / reviving; lets us know how to please God.

# Sanctification

- Jn.17<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
- Jer.1<sup>5</sup> Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.
  - What made Jeremiah so different?
  - Truth sets us apart.

# Walking in light

- Ps.119<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path.
  - Life is a journey.
  - Hold light as you walk...