

WHEN SCRIPTURE FAILS TO COME ALIVE

The Bible, all true Christians would agree, is the most fascinating, engrossing and sustaining Book in the whole world. Hebrews 4:12 describes it in this way: “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Why then should a Book which is described as “living and active” sometimes fail to impact our lives when we peruse its pages?

There are several reasons why this could be so – reading it too hurriedly, coming to it from a sense of duty rather than to meet with the Author, having our minds preoccupied with many other things. But the major reason why the Bible does not impact our lives is our unwillingness to let it uncover the hidden purposes of our hearts. *We will never really get much out of the Bible until we come to it with exposure in mind.* In other words, we must not be content with just reading the Bible, we must let the Bible read us.

When we approach the Bible in this way, we will discover it is more shocking than supportive, more convicting than comforting. That is not to say it does not breathe comfort to us whenever we are in distress, for it most certainly does. Its *main* function, though, is to expose our wrong assumptions about life and to replace them with biblical perspectives. Thus, those who invariably have a comfortable time reading the Bible may not be reading it correctly. When we approach the Scriptures with the attitude of heart that says, “Speak Lord, thy servant heareth,” the promise of Hebrews 4:12 cannot fail to come true.

Father, forgive me for coming to Your Word with my defences intact, bent more on gaining support than being searched. From now on my defences are down. Help me to trust You to give me what I need. In Christ's Name I ask it. Amen

SCRIPTURES ON WHICH TO REFLECT

1. **A prayer to pray whenever you peruse the Scriptures.**
Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. (Psalm 119 : 18)
2. **The psalmist's willingness to be exposed.**
Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. (Psalm 139 : 23)
3. **Scripture – the life of the soul.**
Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4 : 4)

4. **God's Word – higher than the word of men.**
And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.
(1 Thessalonians 2 : 13)
5. **The Word of God – a Christian's only offensive weapon.**
Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6 : 27)
6. **A prayer for understanding.**
Let me understand the teaching of your precepts; then I will meditate on your wonders. (Psalm 119 : 27)
7. **The more one knows the Word, the more one can help others.**
I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another. (Rom 15 : 14)
8. **The right attitude to approach Scripture.**
Let us examine our ways and test them and let us return to the Lord.
(Lamentations 3 : 40)