

Weekly Devotional by Pastor Ken Nabi

March 15, 2010

Words that are Alive

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

The Bible is unique amongst all books. It is the most read, most copied, most studied, and the most hotly debated book of all time. No other book comes close to its overall readership through time. Men and women of great intellect give their whole lives to read and study portions of it. Children who are just learning to read can enjoy its stories and principles and be changed by them. The Bible is truly a one of a kind book.

The author of Hebrews says that the word of God is "living and active." In the context, the author is quoting King David from the OT and using his words to direct the readers of Hebrews. His point here is that the words spoken and recorded by David were still amazingly relevant. They were words that were "alive." These words reverberate around the minds and hearts of men and women changing their thinking and their value system when connected to the human heart. These words are active.

On occasion, I will hear someone say that the Bible is boring. I will often hear people say we need to make the Bible "relevant." And I am caused to wonder if people are reading the same book as me, because I have found the Bible to be many things, but never boring or irrelevant. Yes, the Bible can be difficult to understand. It can be confusing at times. It can most certainly be convicting and difficult to read. It may not entertain like a Clancy novel, but it most certainly has drama and intrigue. It may not inform like a local newspaper, but it speaks volumes into the issues of the day.

What is incredible to me after actively reading it for over 20+ years is that it still speaks to me in profound ways. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says that the man/woman of God can be "thoroughly equipped" which means that if you want to understand God and obey Him, this book when properly understood will change your whole life. We do not worship the Bible. The Bible leads us to Christ who reveals the heart of a loving, righteous, and holy Father.

Most Americans have a Bible in their homes. We take this for granted. Yet, many people have given up sleep, their freedom, and in some cases, their lives just to have a copy of the Bible available to read. Sadly, many of us do not read these words on a consistent basis. But, no other single spiritual discipline returns such significant growth as time spent reading, understanding, and applying the Bible. The Bible while written through human authors is ultimately God's word and it is alive and active. If you bring your heart before its teachings and ask God to speak to you through His Spirit, radical things will happen. God will whisper in your mind and give your heart direction. If you have never read the Bible, begin in the Gospel of John and your heart will pound with the stories as you discover the teachings and authority of Jesus.

In the Reformation, the phrase "Sola Scriptura" surfaced to combat some of the abuses of the Catholic Church and state that the Bible alone was our ultimate and final authority to which all humanity must submit. The Bible, properly understood, always gives life and direction and hope. Will you read it today and tomorrow and the next day? Learn to submit your thinking and heart

to its truths. Compare what people say, even preachers (!), to the words of the Bible so as to make sure you are not misdirected by someone's agenda.

It has been said that when you find someone whose Bible is falling apart, usually their life is not. Lets be students of God's word that we might discover the life He intends for each and every one of us.

Prayer: God, give me a love for your word and help me to prioritize my day around its principles. Cause your Spirit to open my eyes to understand and then my heart to want to obey. May my life be saturated with Your Word Oh, Lord.

Your Partner in the Gospel – *Ken Nabi*