

Spiritual Growth Questions for June 14, 2020
(take one question each day and grow deeper in Bible study)

Opener: Describe a time when someone spoke God's word to you and it was just what you needed.

1. **Read Hebrews 4:11-13 three times.** What do you think the writer is trying to convey to the Hebrew church suffering persecution? What stands out to you.
2. **Read Psalm 119.** Pick two eight verse portions: read and meditate on them. Share with the group which portion/verses spoke to you and why?
3. **Read Psalm 19:7-14.** Describe how the psalmist values the Word. How does the Word examine us and guides us in our lives?
4. Think of one thing you can do to improve your intake of God's Word.
5. **Read Hebrews 4:12, John 6:63, 2 Timothy 3:16.** What is the writer of Hebrews trying to teach this Hebrew church about how rest can come to their souls? How are Jesus' words different?
6. **Pick your own text from the Bible and answer these questions about it:**

Does this text reveal something I should:

- believe about God?
- praise, thank or trust God for?
- pray about for myself or others?
- have a new attitude about?
- make a decision about?
- do for the sake of Christ, others or myself?

Hebrews 4:11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Better with Jesus: A Study of the Book of Hebrews
The Words of Jesus Make us Better
June 14, 2020
Pastor John Lloyd

The book of Hebrews presents the greatness of Christ like no other New Testament writing. The author knew that by remembering and lifting up Jesus, he would help the readers endure their difficult circumstances. As this book is read, it demands a response. Let's take advantage of this time to listen to Him and pray this study will help us grow and be Better with Jesus! When we read, meditate and study the Word of God rest comes to our souls. We are made better by welcoming, trusting and obeying His Word.

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Key Questions: How does real rest, direction and discernment come to my soul? How can I increase my intake of the Word of God?

Big Idea: God's Word brings rest, power and guidance to my life! Living by His Word makes me better!

Review: Real rest comes from believing and trusting in Jesus. Rest can easily be missed by unbelief and disobedience. Our hearts are either getting softer or harder. Let the Word do its work in our lives.

Passionate Welcome, **Passionate Word**, Passionate Worship, Passionate Witness and Passionate Way of Life.

I. God's rest is not _____ to those who hear the gospel.

Hebrews 4:11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience

Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, while the promise of entering his *rest* still stands.

Hebrews 4: 3 For we who have believed enter that *rest*.

Hebrews 4:6a It still remains that some will enter that *rest*.

The text is referring back to the message of salvation they heard in Hebrews 4:2 which brings both warning and salvation. The writer is calling us to faith and warning us about hardening our hearts. D.A. Carson

Hebrews 4:2 For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.

Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

In the Word, we see God and we also see how God sees us. Wiersbe

What can the Word of God achieve?

II. God's Word is given to show us the _____ to true rest.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

How can the Word bring rest to our souls?

A. The Word of God is _____ and _____.

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

Hebrews 3:12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the *living God*. Jn.6:63

B. The Word of God is _____ and _____.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, *sharper* than any two-edged sword, *piercing* to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and *discerning* the thoughts and intentions of the heart

Discerning – kritikos – the word sifts out and analyzes the evidence.

The word convicts/converts and exposes unbelief. It shows us the areas in our lives that are causing unrest in our souls. Ephesians 6:17

How do I approach the Word of God? Humble hermeneutic of submission versus haughty hermeneutic of suspicion. No other book can discern the thoughts and intents of our hearts. Only God's Word can do that. Moehler

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Mt.24:35)

If you truly want to understand yourself, fill your soul with God's word.
Kent Hughes

Living by His Words makes me better!

Disobeying and disregarding God's Word causes one to miss His rest. Obeying and regarding God's Word brings peace and rest to our souls.

The Word will do what it promises to do. It is effective and life giving.

My response: Hear God's Word. Read the Word. Meditate on God's Word. Study His Word. Let the Word read our hearts. Believe and obey His Word.

Select a passage, learn the context, repeat it in different ways, rewrite it in your own words, pray through it. How am I to respond to this text? (See question 6 from spiritual growth questions for ways to apply a text to your life)

III. Living by the Word _____ me to meet the Living God.

Hebrews 4:13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Naked and Exposed to the eyes of him – The image is that of an animal with its head thrown back and neck bare, ready to be sacrificed.

The Word of God exposes and then if we trust God, the word enables us to obey God and claim His promises. Wiersbe

Psalm 90:8 You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. Jeremiah 23:24

We need God's Word to keep us not only at rest, but on the right path. We can be examined by it now or later, but the sooner the better.

Hebrews 4:7 again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Of course, the author means all of this to be sanctifying instruction for the tiny house-church in the welling seas of persecution. He is calling for them not to rebel against God's Word in disobedience, but to submit to it and find rest in the storms. Kent Hughes.

**Let's think of one thing we can do to improve our intake of God's Word.
Welcome God's Word! Living by His Words makes us better.**