

Surgery vs. Strife

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>So two weeks ago we talked about how to enter the rest of God and what the rest of God is.</p> <p>—Last week, we talked about what does us entering God’s rest produce.</p> <p>— — Entering into God’s rest produces the works of the Spirit because we are doing the work of God.</p> <p>— — — When we continue in our own work that is not God’s word we produce the works of the flesh.</p> <p>— — — — The work of the flesh lead to death and destruction where the works of the Spirit lead to life and rest.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>Today we will see how we are so used to wilderness living that it is hard to let go.</p> <p>—We will also see what it means that God’s word is a sharp 2 edge sword.</p> <p>— — What does that mean for believers and non-believers.</p> <p>— — — How God’s word should effect us and change us.</p> <p>— — — — Also, why we need to change in the first place.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 4:11–13 (NASB95): 11 Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.</p> <p>12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.</p> <p>13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.</p>	<p>So now that we know how to enter into the rest of God; through belief in Him.</p> <p>—We know what God’s rest is; stopping our work and doing His, trusting and relying on His promises, and eternal rest one day when He calls us home.</p> <p>— —We also know the effect of our rest in Him; the fruit of the Spirit.</p> <p>— — —So, the author once again calls us to, and his readers to, make every effort to enter God’s rest.</p> <p>— — — —Look at how much good there is in entering God’s rest. God not only saves us through His Son, Jesus Christ the savior of the world, but we can fellowship with God, we are brought out of death into life, He wants us to live with Him and in His love, and not for just a time but for all eternity.</p> <p>— — — — —The verse starts with an encouragement and ends with a the reason for that encouragement.</p>
	<p>The danger of someone falling and following the desert wondering Israelites is always there.</p> <p>—Andrew Murray wrote this about those who fall away like the desert Israelites, “All the wonderful teaching the Epistle contains farther on, as to the Holiest that is opened for us as the place where God wants to receive us into His rest and live, as to the great High Priest who has opened the way and entered in and lives as our Joshua to bring us in, will profit us nothing, unless there be the earnest desire, that willing readiness, the firm resolve, to enter in.”</p> <p>— —Their unbelief made it easy to be disobedient and in disobedience there was not repentance—no heart change.</p> <p>— — —Why do people, why do we, not enter the rest of God when we see all the good that God has for us?</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>We get so used to wilderness living.</p> <p>— We are raised in the wilderness, we go to school in the wilderness, college (if you go) is about as wilderness as you can get, most of us work in the wilderness, the media is based in the wilderness, and those in the wilderness don't like when anyone tries to live different from them.</p> <p>— — Now the wilderness is that life that we have learned to stumble and sin.</p> <p>— — — The wilderness is self sufficiency and even when we get tired of these things, the path of righteousness seems like it is impossible to live and find.</p>
	<p>So, what do we do when we find ourselves in the “wilderness” and don't know what to do?</p> <p>— The first step is always believe. Then cease from self. Then trust Jesus, not your feelings. Then follow Jesus in faith (in believing Him to be true and trustable).</p> <p>— — Murray says this about being a believer of Christ, “Though all may not be bright at once, look to Jesus, your Joshua, and leave all in His hands. Come away out of self, and live in Him. Rest in God whatever happen.”</p> <p>— — — Enter the rest of God; it make so much senses and let Jesus bring you into a life that is so different.</p>

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 4:11–13 (NASB95): 11 Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.</p> <p>12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.</p> <p>13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.</p>	<p>The author makes a seemingly strange turn to the word of God.</p> <p>— But when we look at this turning in light of: <u>READ: Romans 10:17 (NASB95): 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.</u></p> <p>— — The word of God is powerful!!!</p> <p>— — — God’s word calls all things into existence: <u>READ: Psalm 33:6 (NASB95): 6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.</u></p> <p>— — — God’s word is powerful to bring change: <u>READ: 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NASB95): 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.</u></p> <p>— — — It is spiritual food: <u>READ: Matthew 4:4 (NASB95): 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’ ”</u></p> <p>— — — It is also a lamp in the darkness lighting our path: <u>READ: Psalm 119:105 (NASB95): 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.</u></p> <p>— — — It is the word of God that brings salvation; the gospel of God brings salvation: <u>READ: 1 Peter 1:22–23 (NASB95): 22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.</u></p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The word of God brings life because it is alive.</p> <p>— The word is like a seed that gets planted.</p> <p>— — That seed has the potential of life.</p> <p>— — — It may never get watered or taken care of but it has the potential for life.</p> <p>— — — — When that seed roots and starts to grow it can tear through even the harshest soil to reveal life.</p> <p>— — — — — God’s word is always speaking to us and it will speak to us in different ways at different times.</p> <p>— — — — — — This is why are reading, and studying of the word of God is never over; God will continue to reveal to us more and more out of His living word.</p>
	<p>God’s word is also always active.</p> <p>— <u>READ: Isaiah 55:11 (NASB95): 11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.</u></p> <p>— — William Hendriksen wrote, “No one can escape that living and active Word.”</p> <p>— — — Just because someone attempts to not listen to the word of God doesn’t mean that it is not accomplishing its task.</p> <p>— — — — Hendriksen wrote, “Those people who choose to ignore the message of Scripture will experience not merely the power of God’s Word but its keen edge as well.”</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The verse tells us that the word of God is sharper than any two-edge sword.</p> <p>— In the ancient world the double edge sword was the sharpest weapon available to them.</p> <p>— — In this passage we should see 2 different uses for this word of God.</p> <p>— — — First, for believes the word of God is surgical.</p> <p>— — — — When we give our lives to Christ the word of God begins the surgery process to cut off that which should not be and repair that which is wounded.</p> <p>— — — — — God’s word is repairing the heart and mind of the believer, healing us, making us alive again, and bringing us back to life.</p> <p>— — — — — — The word of God has to wound before it can repair.</p>
<p>Hebrews 4:11–13 (NASB95): 11 Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.</p> <p>12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.</p> <p>13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.</p>	<p>Sin has been infused in our most inner parts and the word of God goes in and cuts the sickness of sin out of us.</p> <p>— It is a painful process because it is attached to us; it has become a part of us but it is destroying us so it has to go.</p> <p>— — In the removal of sin the word of God brings life to our spirit. Our spirit is dead because of the sickness of sin but God’s word brings our spirit to life.</p> <p>— — — As we begin to be alive spiritually we become aware of our broken sinful state and the necessity of the words’ surgical work.</p> <p>— — — — It is precise and perfect cutting even the most connected pieces of us.</p> <p>— — — — — It is sharp enough and precise enough that it can divide soul and spirit, joints and marrow.</p> <p>— — — — — — Hendriksen wrote, “Nothing remains untouched by Scripture, for it addresses every aspect of man’s life.”</p> <p>— — — — — — — God is the only one that can take our inner most pieces and divide them. He can take the pieces seen and divided them from the things unseen.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The second use for the word of God from this passage is for non-believers.</p> <p>— The word of God for non-believers is the sharp sword of judgment.</p> <p>— — It is cutting is not that of surgical repair but of attack on an enemy.</p> <p>— — — Apart from Christ we are enemies with God:</p> <p><u>READ: Romans 5:10 (NASB95): 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.</u></p> <p>— — — <u>READ: James 4:4 (NASB95): 4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.</u></p> <p>— — — — God uses the word to attack His enemies and He continues to attack until submission to Him or until it delivers the eternal death blow.</p> <p>— — — — — God’s attack with the word attacks the sinful nature; calling attention to the darkness that is living in a person.</p> <p>— — — — — — Sin has caused humanity to be confused fighting for the wrong side and the blow that God deals by the word are those attempts to bring clarity.</p> <p>— — — — — — — Hendriksen wrote, “The symbolism conveys the message that God’s judgment is stern, righteous, and awful. God has the ultimate power over his creatures; those who refuse to listen to his Word face judgment and death.”</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>There is nothing outside God’s vision.</p> <p>—he sees the inner most parts, the thoughts, the feelings, and the motives.</p> <p>— —All things are laid bare before Him. There is not hiding from God’s double edge sword. One way or another you will feel its cut.</p> <p>— — —READ: Psalm 139:1–3 (NASB95): 1 O Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. 3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.</p> <p>— — — —It is impossible for us to hide from God and His word: READ: Psalm 139:12–13 (NASB95): 12 Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You. 13 For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb.</p>
	<p>So, what is our practical application? How do we apply this to our lives?</p> <p>—Well, God’s word will do its work to either bring life or to fight an enemy. Both will be painful but one is good.</p> <p>— —Believers,we need to go to the operation room of God often. We have to be going to the only thing that has the power to change dead hearts to alive ones. Are you going to the O.R.?</p> <p>— — —Non-believers, submit to the power of God. He wants to make you alive, changed, and well.</p> <p>— — — —So, what is it that we can do? Submit to the will of God. Submit to the correcting word of God.</p>
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