

Title Devotional
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Turn our Bibles to John 6. Yesterday morning on the way to work, I was thinking, what would be appropriate to share, the words from John 6 came to me. In feeding the 5,000, and the attention it brought to Him, they said he must be a prophet and they wanted to make Him king. He used the bread to convey a message, and throughout the chapter he is referring to himself as the bread from Heaven, the bread of God, the bread of life twice, and the living bread, referring to himself. In verse 63, the words he speaks to them are spirit and life. Food sustains life, it gives life. Bread here it is speaking spiritually of course. We notice throughout Jesus' ministry, his words were powerful. I was blessed just reading that. God is the only one that can give life. Unless God moves and gives us the power, we are powerless. Throughout his ministry, we see the power of the spoken Word. We also see the power of Jesus' own Words and how he met the needs of those around him. With the spoken Word, he brought life, healed the lame, sick, and blind. I think of the account in John 9 where they asked the blind man who he thought healed him, but he said he doesn't know but he knows now he sees. We want people to see Jesus.

Jesus said in John 10 that he has come to bring life that they may have it more abundantly. God's Word is the bread of life. It is powerful. We realize man was not made by spoken word, but formed him and breathed in him the breath of life. We're alive physically here today. We need to be alive physically before spiritually. The alternative to life is death. The alternative of a spiritual life is spiritual death. We are in one category or the other. Jesus said "The words I speak unto you are spirit and life." God's Word brings life.

Notice in the conversation he had with the Jews and people he didn't mess around with small talk. He asked, how was their heart? Sometimes we say Jesus could have had a following if he were more tactful, but Jesus' concern was the heart. Jesus was Jesus so he could do as he pleased. He brought conviction. Yet, the Bible says his words were gracious, and it brought emotional healing. The Word of God is quick and powerful, and it is a discerner of thoughts of the heart. As ministers we are called to be stewards of the Gospel. We are called to take God's Word and explain and expound. Sometimes, always, we'd like to see some results like Jesus had: the blind seeing and the lame walking. But Jesus we know was perfect, and at the same time we are not perfect. We must recognize that it is His spirit that works. We do our responsibility faithfully, and he gives. We are his message bearers and takers.

At times we feel spent and at our wits' ends because of many things we have to do, but we can do and we can do, but it is God's work, and God moves the hearts of men as he will. It is not our spiritual maturity that makes the Word of God alive. God can do with His word what he wants, even if at times it is preached by carnal men. He can turn it and make it useful for him.

As God's messengers, we need to continue to evaluate our lives. As an illustration, it wasn't too long ago I was convicted deeply. I dreaded studying for the next message, and I wasn't sure if I could even preach. During that time of struggle, I went to my desk, then looked up and saw a verse from the Psalm: "IF I regard iniquity in my heart, he will not hear me." God's word spoke. I repented and I experienced victory immediately. So as ministers of the gospel, we're made of the same stuff. We face struggles, and it will accomplish what it is meant to.

It's important for us to be who God wants us to be, and we cannot be a barrier to someone else receiving God in our lives. That's what stared me in the face; am I going to be a hindrance to others seeking God? We must allow God to work through us, recognizing our weakness and inability so that His word would be effective.