

The Living Word - Jesus Christ, and The Written Word - The Bible

Zanga Schutte, June 8, 2025

Intro:

The Bible is God's inspired word, providing guidance and instruction for believers. It tells the story of God's relationship with humanity and reveals the truth about Jesus and his role in salvation.

How the two interact: The written word (Bible) is a means to understand and learn about the living word (Jesus). By studying and meditating on the scriptures, we come to know Jesus and his teachings. The living word, (Jesus) is the fulfillment of the written word and the ultimate authority on matters of faith and practice.

From The Beginning: John 1:1 NIV *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

John 1:14 NIV *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Notes: Jesus is considered the incarnate word of God, the ultimate expression of God's love and truth. He is the one who embodies God's character and reveals God's plan for humanity.

The Living Word (Jesus Christ): Hebrews 4:12 NIV *For the word of God is alive 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.*

Notes: The Word of God gives us more than simply a collection of words from God, a vehicle for communicating his ideas; it has living, life-changing, and dynamic power that works in us. God's powerful Word will change us. We must not only listen to it; we must also let it transform our lives.

Hebrews 4:13 NIV *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

Notes: Nothing can be hidden from God. He knows about everyone everywhere, and everything about us is wide open to his all-seeing eyes. He sees all we do and knows all we think. We can have no secrets from him. But we can take comfort in the fact that although God knows us intimately, he still loves us.

The Written Word (the Bible): 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV ¹⁶ *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,* ¹⁷ *so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Notes: The whole Bible, God's inspired Word, should be our standard for testing everything else that claims to be true. Because Scripture is all God breathed and trustworthy, we should read it and apply it to our lives. The Bible safeguards us against false teaching and guides us in how we should live. It remains our only source of knowledge about how we can be saved. God wants to show us His truth and equip us to live for him.

Questions for all of us?? How much time do we spend in God's Word? Do we go before Him in prayer and ask for His guidance?

Let's Develop the discipline of reading the Bible and Praying regularly to discover God's truth and to become confident in our life and faith.

Romans 15:4 NIV *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.*

Notes: The knowledge of the Scriptures affects our attitudes toward the present and the future. The more we know about what God has done in years past, the greater the confidence we have about what he will do in the days ahead. We should read our Bibles diligently to increase our trust that God's will is best for us. We can ask the Holy Spirit to give us discernment of the scriptures.

Romans 15:5 NIV *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had.*

Romans 12:2 NIV *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is---his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Notes: God has good, pleasing, and perfect plans for his people. He wants us to be transformed people with renewed minds, living to honor and obey him and to serve others in the name of Jesus.

Because he wants only what is best for us and because he gave his Son to make our new life possible, we should joyfully give ourselves as living sacrifices in his service.

Satisfies our Hungry and Thirsty Souls: John 4:13-14 NIV ¹³ *Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

Notes: Many spiritual functions parallel physical functions. As our bodies hunger and thirst, so do our souls. The living Word, Jesus Christ, and the written Word, the Bible, satisfy our hungry and thirsty souls.

John 7:37-38 NIV ³⁷ *On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."* (Wai Ola)

Notes: Jesus' words, "come and drink," alluded to the theme of many Bible passages that talk about the Messiah's life-giving blessings. In promising to give the Holy Spirit to all who believed in him, Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah, for that was something only the Messiah could do. Jesus extends this open invitation to everyone today. Come to him and accept his deeply satisfying love for you.

In Closing: Don't Be Tempted by etc... Matthew 4:3-4 NIV ³ *The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." ⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "*

Notes: Temptation may take us by surprise and may even make us feel ashamed, but remember that temptation itself is not sin and that God never tempts us. Sin begins when we give in to a temptation and disobey God.

Don't Be Deceived: John 10:10 NIV *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; (This is what the Living Word and the written Word says;) I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

Amen & Amen