

The Lord Speaks. Are You Listening?

Introduction: In our Habakkuk study, one key thing about the prophet has grabbed my attention—his attitude toward God’s message. (Hab. 2:1) God knows what is happening in our lives and in His church. While God wants us to pray to him about what’s happening in our lives, He also wants us to stop and listen to His answers for our lives. (Hab. 1:1, 2)

I. God’s word repeatedly declares itself as “alive”

- A. It’s not a dead book with a dead message from dead men.
- B. It is the source of spiritual truth that frees, sanctifies, and purifies. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17)
- C. Regardless of how alive it is, it cannot and will not significantly bless a person if he or she does not dig into it.

II. Why do you study the Bible?

- A. Some study for academic reasons.
- B. Some study to discredit its message.
- C. Some study to find trivia.
- D. Some study to fulfill requirement.
- E. Some study to sharpen arguments.
- F. Some study in research of correct doctrine.
- G. Some study to grasp God’s purpose.
- H. Some study because they want to understand proper godly conduct.

III. God’s reason to study His message (Heb. 4:12)

- A. It is alive. It is active, powerful and dynamic.
- B. It cuts deep and exposes our thoughts, motives, and intentions.
- C. I’ve seen people moved by ignorance and conscience to become more serious in their Bible study.
- D. The fear of learning discourages many from study.
- E. The Bible reveals us to ourselves and even to others.
- F. It’s how God takes us apart and puts us back together.

Conclusion: If you are afraid to study because you fear finding out about yourself or discovering God’s view of you, you need to change your perspective. God already knows about me and you—truthfully, accurately. You can discover what you need to know while there’s opportunity to change. Or, you can find out in the judgement when it’s too late.