

## Hebrews 4:12 word study

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***“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.” NIV***

Using the Greek lexicon, we find the following word translations of this text:

**word** = “logos” (3056) = something said (including thought), by implication topic, reasoning.

**God** = “THEOS” (2316) = the Godhead Trinity

**alive** = “zao” (2198) = to live, breathe, to enjoy real life, not lifeless

**active** = “energes” (1756) = effectual, powerful

**sharper** = “tomos” (5114) = sharper, to cut more comprehensive or decisive, by a single stroke (not repeated blows/hacking)

**double-edged** = “distomos” (1366) = with 2 edges, double-mouthed

**sword** = “machaira” (3162) = a large knife used for cutting up animals

**penetrates** = “diikneomai” (1338) = to go through, pierce, to reach through

**dividing** = “merismos” (3311) = a separation, distribution

**soul** = “psyche” (5590) = breath of life. Soul = seat of feelings, desires, our heart

**spirit** = “pneuma” (4151) = 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Triune God. The Holy Spirit.

**joints** = “harmos” (719) = a joining, a joint

**marrow** = “myelos” (3452) = enclosed within; to close, to shut, the marrow

**judges** = “kritikos” (2924) = related to judging

**thoughts** = “enthymesis” = 1761 = thinking, consideration

**attitudes** = “ennoia” (1771) = act of thinking, meditation; intent

**heart** = “kardia” (2588) = the organ, center of circulation center of all physical and spiritual life; seat of spiritual life

Visual, contextual application of the full power of this verse and the powerful word of God:

**Luke 5:22-24** – Jesus, the alive, Word of God knew what the Pharisees were thinking, and asked them, “why are you thinking these things in your hearts?”

- with His very word, he cut through by a decisive, single stroke to their desires/heart and revealed what was enclosed within them.
- He revealed what was at their seat of their spiritual life and brought it to judgement
- it was effective and powerful, to the Pharisees and the man who was healed

The Word of God is life-giving and skillful as it penetrates, divides & judges us. It’s ability to penetrate the depths of man’s heart/mind is like no other.

(Note to self- knowing the Word of God and how to use it are KEY)

