

## Hebrews 4:12-13

Step 1: When reading through the book of Hebrews, we get the tone of seriousness of discipleship with Jesus at the center, as portrayed by the author. Hebrews 4 also talks about the Sabbath rest. In Hebrews 4:12-13 the author uses the image of a double-edged sword to illustrate the power of the word of God. Swords were a weapon used in battle, showing the severity and importance the word has in penetrating the heart and dividing soul and spirit because everything in us is uncovered before the Lord's eyes.

Step 2: We too, as the audience for which this portion was written for, will give an account before God and need His word to become living and active in our lives, judge our hearts and motives. The difference is that we, today don't use swords on a regular basis to be able to fully understand their use and power as the original audience.

Step 3: The Christian life is dependent of God's word, which goes deep into our hearts, separating the pure motives from the soulish ones, which is why entering God's rest is so important because that is the place where we can best receive God's word deeply. Those who have gone before us, supply us with the valuable examples of how God's word purified hearts and even how God rested from his work.

Step 4: The theological principles fit with the rest of the Bible in the way that they are general enough yet clear to indicate the importance of the word, motives of the heart, and us standing before the Lord, which is seen in various parts of Scripture.

Step 5: The sword is the word of God spoken from His mouth, revelation, and His Scriptures, logos, which we can receive from a place of rest. His word empowers us and also judges and uncovers our hearts, leading us into truth