

Conversation Starter

For the week of February 24 to March 1, 2008

This week's theme: The Power Of God's Word

Reading #1: Nehemiah 8:9b
Reading #2: Jeremiah 23:29
Reading #3: Hebrews 4:12
Reading #4: Ephesians 6:17

"For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law." (Nehemiah 8:9b) This was the response that Ezra, a priest and teacher of the Law, witnessed as he spent time reading to the Israelites from what they referred to as "the words of the Law" or the "Law of Moses". The "Law of Moses" comes from that part of the Bible known to us as the Old Testament, and more specifically, from the first five books of the Old Testament, Genesis to Deuteronomy. The fact that the people were weeping as a reaction to what Ezra was reading demonstrates the power of God's Word. In the book of Jeremiah, God refers to the power of His Word in this way: *"Is not My word like fire and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29)* Throughout the Bible the reality of the power of God's Word is referred to, spoken of and demonstrated over and over again in the lives of those who take the truth of His Word to heart. As the author of the New Testament book of Hebrews writes: *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edge sword...it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (See Hebrews 4:12)*

1. What does the author of the book of Hebrews mean by describing the word of God as living, as active and as sharper than any double-edge sword?
2. In the apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he refers to the word of God as the sword of the Spirit. (See Ephesians 6:17b) What does Paul mean by "the sword of the Spirit"?
3. With the Bible being referred to as "the sword of the Spirit", when do we use this "sword" and how do we use this "sword"?
4. In what ways have you experienced the power of God's Word?
5. How has 'hearing' the word of God and 'doing' what it says changed your life?
6. What is your favourite verse(s) from God's word? Why?
7. How can God's word help us in times of trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, stress, and grief?

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