

Don't Be Afraid To Let It Breathe

I. Introduction:

A. The word of God is quick [*"to live, breathe, be among the living (not lifeless, not dead)"*]; Strong's # 2198] and effective (**Hebrews 4:12**).

1. Nothing can kill the word of God (**Isaiah 55:10-11** and **I Peter 1:22-25**).
2. But we can certainly allow it's effect to be choked (**Mark 4:18-19**).

B. You can limit the impact the word of God has on you (**Mark 7:13** and **II Thessalonians 2:10**).

1. Like any book, the Scriptures won't open themselves. You have to put forth the effort in seeking to learn (**Proverbs 2:1-6**).
2. Once you learn, the effect of that knowledge will be limited by how much you are capable (**Mark 4:33** and **Hebrews 5:11-14**) and willing to apply that knowledge (**Psalms 19:7-11, Psalms 119:1-3; 9, and Matthew 7:21-27**).

II. Body: Don't Kill The Word In Your Life, Allow It To Work In You (**I Thessalonians 2:13**).

A. We have to be properly prepared to allow the living word to work in us (**Ezra 7:10** and **James 1:21**; cf. **Romans 6:17**).

1. Able to set things aside that prevent effective growth (**I Peter 2:1-2**).
2. Understand that the word dwelling in you (**Colossians 3:16**), permeating within you (**Deuteronomy 11:18**); will do things to you (**Jeremiah 15:16**).

B. Being honest in that the word of God isn't all rosy (**Ezekiel 2:1-10**).

1. Be open to the fact that learning isn't always fun (**Ecclesiastes 1:18**).
2. Sometimes the truth doesn't feel so good (**Revelation 10:9-10**).
3. Most fail to allow the word of God to live in them when they hear something that doesn't suit them (**Matthew 19:16-22** and **John 6:60; 66**).
4. Sharp, powerful, etc. are terms that = dangerous (i.e. **Jeremiah 23:29**).

C. Caution must be applied in letting God's word breathe freely (**II Timothy 2:14-18**).

1. Not all biblical/spiritual discussions are good (**Colossians 2:4-8, I Timothy 1:3-7, II Timothy 2:23, and Titus 3:9-11**).
2. We have to be careful not to get in over our own heads (**II Peter 3:15-18**).
3. Don't just learn "for the fun of it"; for the more you know the more God will expect/hold you accountable for (**Luke 12:41-48** and **James 4:17**).
4. We do not want to end up corrupting the word (**II Corinthians 2:17**).

D. If properly handled, the living word is the way of life (**Proverbs 6:20-23; 15:24**).

1. The truth if left to work as it should, is able to make us wise unto salvation and fully equip us unto all good works (**II Timothy 3:15-17**).

2. In the end, the living word saves (**Romans 1:14-17** and **I Corinthians 15:1-2**).

III. Conclusion: Let The Living Word Bring You To Life (**Psalms 119:50** and **John 6:63**).