Hebrews 4:12

For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, ad of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

From Phillips Translation:

“For the Word that God speaks is alive and active; it cuts more keenly than any two-edged sword: it strikes through to the place where soul and spirit meet, to the innermost intimacies of a man’s being: it exposes the very thoughts and motives of a man’s heart.”

“The sense is, that the truth of God is all-penetrating and searching, and that the real thoughts and intents of the heart will be brought to light, and that if there is insincerity and self-deception there can be no hope of escape. There has been a great variety of opinion here about the meaning of the phrase "the Word of God." Some have supposed that it means the Lord Jesus; others, the whole of the divine revelation; others the gospel. The "Word of God" is "what God speaks" - whether it be a promise or a threatening; whether it be Law or gospel; whether it be a simple declaration or a statement of a doctrine. The idea here is, that what "God had said" is suited to detect hypocrisy and to lay open the true nature of the feelings of the soul, so that there can be no escape for the guilty. His "truth" is adapted to bring out the real feelings, and to show man exactly what he is. Truth always has this power - whether preached, or read, or communicated by conversation, or impressed upon the memory and conscience by the Holy Spirit. There can be no escape from the penetrating, searching application of the Word of God. That truth has power to show what man is, and is like a penetrating sword that lays open the whole man;The phrase "the Word of God" here may be applied, therefore, to the "truth" of God, however made known to the mind.

“Is quick - Greek zōn - "living." It is not dead, inert, and powerless. It has a "living" power, and is energetic and active. It is "adapted" to produce this effect.

“And powerful - Mighty. Its power is seen in awakening the conscience; alarming the fears;

“Sharper than any two-edged sword - Literally, "two-mouthed" sword - distomon. The word "mouth" was given to the sword because it seemed to "devour" all before it. It consumed or destroyed as a wild beast does. The comparison of the Word of God to a sword or to an arrow, is designed to show its power of penetrating the heart; [Ecclesiastes 12:11](http://biblehub.com/ecclesiastes/12-11.htm), "The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies;" compare [Isaiah 49:2](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/49-2.htm). "And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword;" [Revelation 1:16](http://biblehub.com/revelation/1-16.htm), "And out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword;" [Revelation 2:12](http://biblehub.com/revelation/2-12.htm), [Revelation 2:16](http://biblehub.com/revelation/2-16.htm); [Revelation 19:15](http://biblehub.com/revelation/19-15.htm). The idea is that of piercing, or penetrating; and the meaning here is, that the Word of God reaches the "heart" - the very center of action, and lays open the motives and feelings of the man. It was common among the ancients to have a sword with two edges. The Roman sword was commonly made in this manner. The fact that it had two edges made it more easy to penetrate, as well as to cut with every way.

“Piercing even to the dividing asunder - Penetrating so as to divide. (Barnes Notes, [www.biblehub.com)](http://www.biblehub.com)).

“quick—Greek, "living"; having living power, as "the rod of the mouth and the breath of the lips" of "the living God."

“powerful—Greek, "energetic"; not only living, but energetically efficacious.

“sharper—"more cutting” ([www.biblehub.com](http://www.biblehub.com), Jamieson-Faucett)