

Joint and Marrow

Hebrews 4:12

(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, and ***of the joints and marrow***, and ***is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart***.

This is a powerful Message about God's Word!

The words in Greek that are used for “joints” and for “marrow,” respectively, are as follows:

Joints:

“Harmos” – means an “articulation” (of the body)

Marrow:

“Muelos” (pronounced: moo-el-os') – means the “marrow,” literally.

So, it would appear there is nothing here to suggest anything of much consequence, right?

Well, not so fast! I did a search for the meaning of “dividing asunder...of joints and marrow,” and this is what AI provided me, which is so very important to understand:

I am herein typing what Google Search provided by AI on my phone, early this very morning:

“In the original Greek, “joints” refers to the hard outer parts of the bone where they connect, and “marrow” (myelos) refers to the soft, inner, life-sustaining substance within the bone. The phrase “joints and marrow” is a metaphor from a biblical text (Hebrews 4:12) that represents the deepest, most hidden parts of a person, both physical and spiritual, and signifies the penetrating power of the word of God.

“Joints and marrow in the original Greek:

- **Joints:** In the original text of Hebrews 4:12, the Greek word for “joints” can be understood as the hard, outer connection points of bones, representing the visible or external parts of a person.
- **Marrow (myelos):** This Greek word refers to the soft, inner substance inside the bone, representing the very core or innermost part of something. It was traditionally associated with life and strength, and was considered a delicacy, according to StudyLight.org and BiblicalTraining.org.

“Figurative meaning:

- **The penetration of God's Word:**
The “joints and marrow” are used as a metaphor for the most hidden depths of the human being.
- **Separating the physical and spiritual:**
Just as a sharp sword can divide the bone from its marrow, the word of God is said to be able to divide between the “soul and spirit” and between the “joints and marrow” to expose the innermost thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- **A complete division:**

The expression illustrates that the word of God is powerful enough to reach and judge the innermost workings of both the physical and spiritual aspects of a person beyond what the eye can see.”

Doing another search on the exact wording of the King James Version for Hebrews 4:12, Google Search/AI provided this, also:

“Hebrews 4:12 (KJV) states, **“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, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”**. This verse describes the power and penetrating nature of God’s word, suggesting it is alive, active, and able to judge the deepest parts of a person’s being, including their innermost thoughts and intentions.

- **Living and powerful:**

The word of God is portrayed as being “quick” (or alive) and powerful, capable of bringing life or death.

- **Sharper than a sword:**

It is compared to a two-edged sword that is sharper than any physical weapon, emphasizing its ability to cut deeply and precisely.

- **Piercing to the core:**

The verse used graphic imagery, stating that it can divide “soul and spirit” and “joints and marrow,” indicating it can reach the very deepest parts of a person’s nature.

- **A discerner of thoughts:**

The word of God is presented as a judge that can discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

It is interesting how the New International Version (NIV) states Hebrews 4:12, also:

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any two-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

You will see, by this verse, in both the KJV and the NIV, that the concept of being “QUICK,” “ACTIVE,” and “ALIVE” is how God’s Word, the Bible, speaks to our innermost heart attitudes, intentions, motivations, and ambitions!

God’s Word “JUDGES” and “DISCERNS” those motivations, attitudes, ambitions, and intentions, enabling us to see ourselves in the Light of God’s other Words of Life, Hope, and Promise; but it also speaks directly to us, warning us to follow His ways... and to follow HIM in every thing, and in all manner of our lives!

The fact that God's Word is able to do this causes us to see that the division of our "souls" from our "spirits" actually enables us to realize that our **spirits** are **already** transformed into God's image, at the event of each of our individual conversions to Christ – that is, when we each are born anew, or "born again," – but to be able, also, to make the distinction that our **souls continue** to need work from God, **in an on-going basis, AFTER conversion**; and that His Word enables **that** process (the process of "sanctification," which is God's setting us apart unto Himself for His Own purposes, and cleansing us of our hidden, and ungodly, agendas, motivations, reasonings, and ambitions), **thereby, to free us**, gradually and persistently, **by His Spirit's power and influence within us, from our own intentions**.

We are, thereby, able to follow Jesus in all that we say and do, as the Word of God instructs and trains us up, and thus empowers us to model His very Own righteousness and holiness, in His words and deeds being lived by us, likewise (see this in James, Chapter 1, which follows)!

James 1:21-26

(21) Wherefore ***lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.***

(22) But ***be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.***

(23) ***For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:***

(24) ***For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.***

(25) ***But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.***

(26) ***If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.***

Therefore, in finality of this Message, our "marrow" distinctly refers to the parts of our innermost beings that entertain the thinking and rationale of the world, and of its people, and the "joints," or "articulations," are what enjoins us to that world, OR, contrarily, unto God, by the choices the "marrow" – each one of our "souls" – makes... day by day, moment by moment, decision by decision, and, consequently, action by action!

Let it be clear that the "articulations" of the body are what JOIN the bodily form to the soul within it. Even so, **the soul is joined to the ACTIONS OF the bodily form, so that they need to be divided by God's Word:**

On the one hand, the soul needs the instruction of the Word of God:

2Timothy 3:16-17

(16) **All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

(17) *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished* unto all good works.

On the other hand, the Word of God must REPROVE ERRANT BEHAVIOR SO THAT THE SOUL LEARNS TO LIVE OUT THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS WITH GODLY CONDUCT:

2Timothy 3:16-17

(16) All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

(17) *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

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Blessings2u!!

~Roger Funk, II

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