

Challenge
-Ryan Parsons-

I once saw a video of a family in a drive-thru safari park. As they approached a pack of cheetahs, they decided to get out of their car to get pictures with the wild cats. A few of the cheetahs saw this as a buffet and began to pursue the family as they ran back to their car. Obviously, it was spectacularly foolish and against the rules to get out of their car. Why? Because it is wise to keep a safe distance from wild animals. They might hurt or kill you.

In that instance, I think the advice is good. However, do we ever treat the Bible like a drive-thru safari adventure? Do we keep a safe distance because of the raw power of the Word?

The Hebrew writer tells us how powerful it is: **Hebrews 4:12** *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Believe it or not, we are not only supposed to encounter it ourselves, but we are to deploy it point first towards our brethren with the intent of teaching and admonishing each other along the journey. **Colossians 3:16** *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

While it is advisable to stay in the car when lions, tigers, and bears are around, scripture actually tells us to get out of the car when it comes to God's word! While powerful and potentially painful, it is not a life taker. It is a life giver. **Psalms 119:37** *Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.*

Without the Word of God, we can find ourselves making our own justifications for what we want to do. On the other hand, if we courageously put ourselves within striking distance of the Word, it will purge our motives and justifications from seeking our own will and lead us to LIFE IN HIS WAYS.

Take a chance and get out of the car!

Starting January 1st, 2020, we will embark upon a journey to read through the Bible in a year. You are encouraged to join us. Schedules can be picked up in the foyer or downloaded from the church website. Join in the conversation online in our private Facebook groups. For more information visit with Ryan.