

FOOD TO LIVE BY

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The ultimate source of the words we have in our Bibles is a fundamental and crucial question. Our faith and, ultimately, our eternal destiny depend upon the answer to this question. The correct answer to the question is that God has truly given every individual word of the Bible. Therefore, we have the spiritual food and nourishment that we need to live our lives by and be prepared for eternity.

Every individual word (and all its parts) comes from God

The Bible itself proclaims that literally *every word* of the Bible came from God, and that every word came from *the mouth of God*. “*For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*” (2 Pet 1:21). “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works*” (2 Tim 3:16-17). In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said, “*It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.*” Through the prophets, God inspired each and every individual word and letter (Prov 30:5-6; Luke 4:4), every singular and plural (Gal 3:16), every verb tense (Matt 22:31-32), and every jot and tittle (Matt 5:17-18). Thus, the prophets spoke and wrote down exactly what God spoke to them, and only what God spoke to them (Matt 22:31-32; Gal 3:16). In certain cases, the inspired men did not even understand what they were speaking about (1 Pet 1:10-12; also compare Acts 2:39 and Acts 10:28). This clearly demonstrates that the words themselves came from God. In Exodus 4:10-16 and Jeremiah 1:7-9, we learn that God’s role in inspiration was to “*put words into the mouth*” and the prophet’s role was to serve as a mouth, and speak what he was commanded to speak (see also Ezek 2:7-3:27). The apostles did not speak their own words (Matt 10:18-20; 1 Cor 2:4-5,12-13). Even Jesus (John 12:48-50) and the Holy Spirit (John 16:12-15) would not speak of themselves. God certainly did not permit mere mortals to speak their own words in the Bible. God inspired every part of the Bible. He did not merely “inspire” the thoughts, ideas, or principles. Therefore, we can have full,

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unwavering faith that every part of every word in the Bible is as it is in truth: the word of God (1 Thes 2:13).

Living by God's word

God has given His revelation to us, His creation, to completely guide our lives. As we have already seen in Matthew 4:4, man is to *live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*. In His word, God has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3). Absolutely everything that we need to know about how we should live in this life and how to be godly is revealed in the scriptures, specifically by the New Testament (John 1:4; 2 Cor 3:18; 1 Tim 4:6-8; 6:3; Titus 1:1; 2:11-12). These scriptures are given to us *“that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”* (2 Pet 1:4). The scriptures are profitable and are able to make the *“man of God perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”* (2 Tim 3:16-17). *“But whoso keeps his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected”* (1 John 2:5). This is God's purpose for man (Matt 5:48; 10:25; Luke 6:40; Rom 8:28-29; 2 Cor 13:11; Eph 4:11-13; Php 2:5-8; Col 1:27-28; 3:10; 1 Pet 2:21; 4:1-2; 5:10).

Perfection means the evil is purged out of our hearts (Acts 15:9; 1 John 1:9), and we have all the parts of God's love formed in our hearts (Matt 5:43-48; John 17:22-26; 1 John 2:5; 4:12,17-18; Heb 2:10). When all of the evil is purged out and all of the parts of God's love is formed in our hearts, then we are well prepared to actually cease from and overcome sin, because the evil that was previously in our hearts and causing us to sin is now gone. Now the Christian is better prepared to resist the temptation the next time it comes. And whereas before, from the evil treasure of our heart we brought forth evil things, now from the good treasure of a perfect heart we should bring forth only good things (Matt 12:35; Luke 6:45). That is why 1 John 2:1 says *“these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.”* God's word equips us to resist every temptation and overcome all sin (Eph 6:10-18; Heb 4:12). That is why we need to *“lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls”* (Jas 1:21). Truly, man does live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.