

EVERY WORD OF GOD

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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. 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.”* In this verse, our Lord shows us that literally *every word* of the Bible came from God, and that every word came from *the mouth of God*.

The source of the entire Bible

Man is not the source of any part of the Bible: *“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”* (2 Tim 3:16). God gave each and every individual word and letter (Prov 30:5-6; Luke 4:4). Indeed, God gave every singular and plural (Gal 3:16), every verb tense (Matt 22:31-32), and every jot and tittle (Matt 5:17-18). The prophets spoke and wrote down exactly what God gave them (Mt 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 Christ (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, not

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just the thoughts, ideas, or principles. Therefore, we can have full, 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).

The purpose of God's word

Matthew 4:4 also teaches us the purpose of the scriptures: to completely guide our lives. 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 (literally, *completion*) 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). 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.