

The grass withers  
and the flower thereof  
falls away, but

# God's Word Endures Forever

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Man's basic spiritual problem is not believing the integrity of the Word of God. Very few people believe that the Word of God is accurate, that it means what it says and says what it means. Thus man is in a constant dilemma in his quest for truth. He has no touchstone for truth because he will not go to God's Word and study its integrity and accuracy.

In Matthew 4:4 the Word of God declares,

... It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Notice the words "out of the mouth of God." God has been attributed a human characteristic, but God does not have a mouth. Again the figure of speech is *condescensio*, the Holy Spirit's marking for emphasis.

Man cannot sustain himself solely on a diet of physical food; he needs his food supplemented by every word that comes from God. Man cannot live by words that come from men, from different writers, from different theologians or from different church groups, but by Words that come from God.

Man does need physical food for the maintenance of his physical body. But a man has more than just his physical body to care for. A man's soul needs nourishment also. Man's soul cannot be sustained by mashed potatoes, gravy and steak. Matthew 4:4 declares that man shall live not only by bread "but by every word...." He needs not just a word here and a word there; "but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." The Word of God is that food required by man so that he may renew his mind and thereby manifest the more abundant life.

Spiritual weakness and spiritual inability can be due only to an improper diet, that is, the neglect of the Word of God. For the most part, spiritual anemia caused by the neglect of the Word of God may be attributed to the fact that the Bible is not understood when read. The Bible is not understood because we have never been taught how to understand it. Who has taught us figures of speech? Who has taught us what revelation is? Who has shown us the accuracy of the Word? That is why we have stories about dust-covered Bibles. One cannot really blame people for this. The blame should lie with those of us who have been preachers and teachers because we have not communicated God's Word to today's man.

But what about the people whose Bibles are not dust-covered and neglected, and yet they are still spiritually weak? Their spiritual malady must be caused by the wrong usage of God's Word. The improper usage means that God's Word is

not being rightly divided. Some of us have been instructed to read the Bible at least once a day; but when we are through reading our daily scripture, what do we know? We have not learned anything because we have not understood it. What happens when people fail to understand the Word? They succumb to all the doctrines and theories of man. These spiritually-hungry people are blown around from pillar to post with each new philosopher or new idea. The fleeting shadows of a few great names rather than the Word of God hold people spellbound. Far too many people believe what they have received from man and then endeavor to have their beliefs corroborated by going to the Bible and selecting scriptures to substantiate their ideas.

A woman once wrote to me regarding one of our radio broadcasts. She had appreciated my preaching because it agreed with what she thought. Suppose the teaching had been God's truth and that it had disagreed with what she thought. Would her beliefs have changed the Word of God? Whether or not we believe, it is still God's Word.

Several years ago I was teaching a class in a Southern state. After the second session a man came to me and said, "I think that this is the most logical biblical teaching I have ever heard, but," he said, "it is upsetting me because I have always held other opinions and I do not want to change my mind. You are confusing me." This gentleman did not finish the class because he already had his mind closed. That was his privilege, but God's Word is still truth whether or not we believe it.

When two parts of hydrogen and one part of oxygen are sparked together, water is going to result. I don't care whether you pray or don't pray, whether you are Christian or non-Christian, whether you believe or you don't believe; it doesn't make any difference because the law is that two parts of hydrogen and one part of oxygen is water. God's Word is as infallible as that. This is why we should honestly come to the point that we allow the Word of God to take pre-eminence in our lives no matter what ideas, no matter what theories, no matter what opinions we may have held. We must come to the Word, let the Word speak and then adjust our thinking according to the integrity and the accuracy of that Word. After we have let the Word speak, we must accordingly harmonize our beliefs, our actions and our living.

II Peter 1:3 says that God's Word "... hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." God by His divine pow-

er has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. If we want the things that pertain to life and godliness, we have to go to God's Word. If one plays football, he must go by the rules of the game of football. So logically, if we want to know God's will, where do we go? To a commentary, to the theologians, to an encyclopedia, or to last Sunday's sermon? No. We go to the Word of God.

**I Thessalonians 2:13:**

**For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.**

They received the Word of God which they heard of Paul. People could have said, "That is just Paul talking," but they didn't. Paul says that the Thessalonians "received the Word of God which ye have heard of us ... not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." The Word declares of itself in Psalms 12:6,

**The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.**

If the Bible has the words of the Lord, then these words must be undefiled and absolutely pure. They are "... as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."

**Psalms 119:162:**

**I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.**

Do you rejoice at the Word as one who finds great spoil? Would you rejoice at the Word as much as you would if you found a thousand dollars?

I Corinthians contains another testimony from the Word of God regarding the integrity of God's Word.

**I Corinthians 2:13:**

**Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but [words] which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

If these are words which the Holy Spirit teaches, then we ought to wash out our ears, get the cobwebs out of our minds, and begin to study God's Word for its inherent accuracy.

**Jeremiah 15:16:**

**Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word [God's Word, not what people said about it, not what some theologian wrote about it] was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart ....**

**T**his does not mean that they found the Bible or the Word and chewed it or physically ate it. When the Word was

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musicians (Ecclesiastes 2:8). Music was also the legitimate expression of gladness. Bridal processions as they passed through the streets were accompanied by music and song (Jeremiah 7:34). Banquets were accompanied by songs and dancing (Luke 15:25). Triumphant processions which celebrated a victory were enlivened by minstrels and singers (Exodus 15:1,20; Judges 5:1; 11:34). There were also other types of songs (Isaiah 30:29; James 5:13). Love songs are alluded to (Psalm 45, Isaiah 5:1); also, the doleful songs of the funeral procession and the wailing chant of the mourners. Grape gatherers sang at their work, women sang as they toiled at the mill, and every occasion in the land of the Hebrews during their national prosperity was a time of music and melody.

God's people sang unto Him (I Chronicles 16:9), they sang psalms unto Him and talked of all His wondrous works. Psalm 33:3 and 4 tell Israel to "sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise. For the word of the Lord is right;" Psalm 40:3 says that God "hath put a new song in my [David's] mouth." "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from

above, ..." James 1:17 says.

In this Grace Administration God's people are instructed to sing spiritual songs to the Lord. He gets the glory for every perfect new song on the lips and in the hearts of His children. 🐦

## God's Word Endures

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found, they digested it, they lived on it, it was their soul's life, their spiritual heartbeat.

God's Word is overwhelming because it is so true. Too many ministers like to talk around the Word by taking one verse of scripture, reading that verse as the text for the day, giving illustrations from Shakespeare and *Newsweek*, coming back and quoting the beginning verse of scripture, pronouncing the benediction and going home. How much of the Word then has the congregation learned? None! When the people ate the Word as recorded in Jeremiah, they ate the *pure* Word. We must preach the *pure* Word.

All God's creation is marvelous; but of

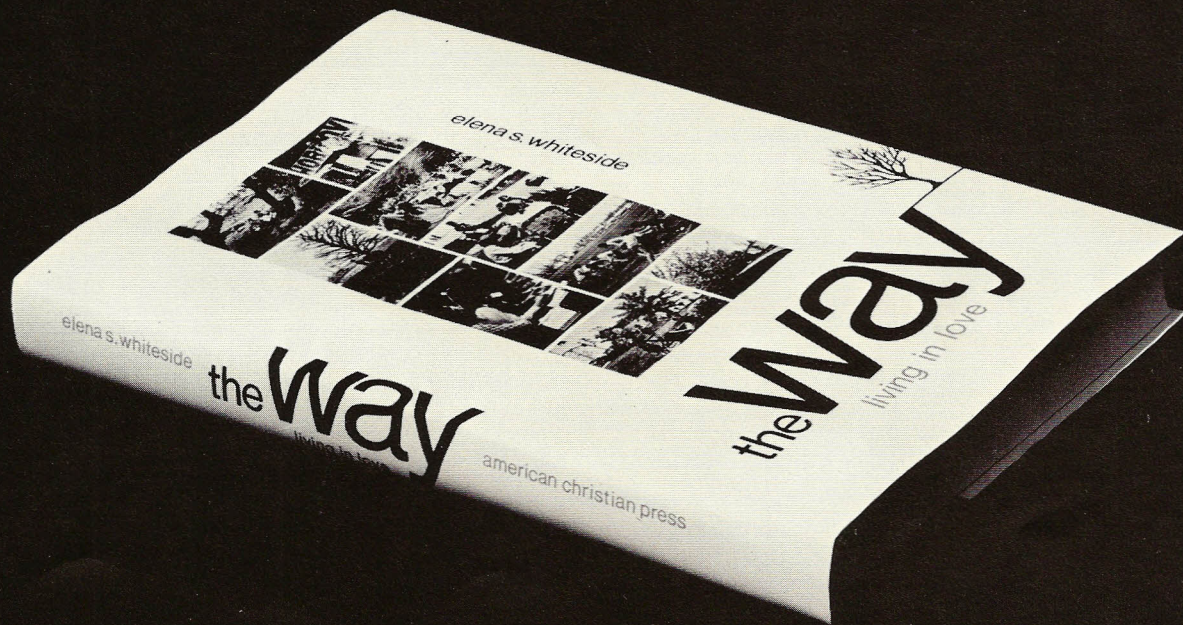
all God's works, the greatest of His works is His Word.

**Psalms 138:2:**

**I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**

God has magnified His Word above His Name. It does not say that about the stars or the planets. He set His Word above His Name for He underwrote it, He put His Name underneath it, He guaranteed it. It is just like a check. When I write a check for a thousand dollars and I sign my name, the check is only as good as the signature. How good is God's Word? The Word of God declares that it is as good as God for God signed His Name to it. The Word is as much God as God is God. What God said was, was, what God has said is, is, what God says will be, will be. Do you see why we must come back to the integrity and accuracy of God's wonderful Word? We cannot trust man's word because man blows about, being here today and gone tomorrow; but the Word of God "liveth and abideth for ever." That Word endures. 🐦

## The Inside Story



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