



# Every Word



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word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

**Matthew 4:4**

**Pastor J. Paul Reno**

**EVERY WORD**

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## **“EVERY WORD”**

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I celebrated my 65<sup>th</sup> spiritual birthday recently, as I was saved in October of 1950. I first started ministering nearly 60 years ago. It wasn't long after 1955 that I encountered people questioning the accuracy of the King James Bible. I had heard a little about this issue as I was growing up. I was privileged to hear men like Frank Gaebelin, Dr. Zodiates, Dr. Bob Ketchum, Dr. Ironside,

A.W. Pink and multitudes of others, a number of which had been infected by the Westcott and Hort virus. (That is evidenced in their writings.) I confess to you that as a boy, when I would hear read or preached something different than what I had in my Bible, it caused a bit of confusion. It didn't register right in my soul. I realize that such is subjective, but I knew God had saved me and His Word was true. An altered text was like a sour note in the choir or a bad chord on the piano. It didn't fit.

I want to share with you some of the texts that helped me, as a young boy, that this old boy still believes. By the time I was a teenager I was defending the King James Bible. I defended it based on its internal voice that had spoken to me. Then I would watch to see if others heard as I did. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God," because he is natural. (I Cor. 2:14) God said that. Whether my hearers had ability to receive it or not was not my difficulty, but, rather, it was theirs.

Matthew 4:4 states, "But he answered and said, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.'" When I was saved in 1950 my boy's heart knew He was God and that He was perfect. I knew He was Truth. This is what Jesus said about the Scriptures. "Man shall not live by bread alone but by **every word**". **Every word** – not just some of them.

The liberals used to use a phrase that is foundational to the whole Westcott and Hort crowd's position. They said the Bible

CONTAINS the Word of God, but Jesus said, “**every word**”. Read your Bible. And read it and read it and read it. If it isn’t talking to you the fourth or fifth time, read it 10 or 20 or 30 times. It doesn’t take long to read your Bible through. Normal reading speed would be somewhere around 60 to 70 hours from Genesis to Revelation.

Notice this – **every word**. Context is important with a text or else you end up with a pre-text. Question: Who was talking in this verse? Who is the “He”? Jesus. Do you think you can trust Jesus? YES! Then I think

we are going to have to stand by the verse.

He said it. That ought to settle it. He is the

One that said what is contained in this verse

and made it so profound. To whom was He

speaking? Satan. So we have Jesus saying,

“Man shall not live by bread alone but by

**every word** that proceedeth out of the

mouth of God”. And the devil has to hear it.

Do you think the devil liked what he heard?

Man was to not live by bread which was the

basis of the temptation, but rather “**every**

**word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of

God”. Do you think the devil likes that truth?

No! He doesn't.



Jesus is called the second Adam. The first one, with Eve, had a conversation with the devil in which they agreed that **every word** was not that essential, and substituting some words would be all right. Absolute contrast. Jesus nails down immediately the basis of a temptation for food is to be determined by **every word** that proceedeth out the mouth of God. Adam and Eve didn't have that many words they had to remember. They were loose with those words and the devil helped them with that. He still has people that want to be loose and he continues to help them. But

here, Jesus comes back to the basics and He drives a point home. Jesus was being tempted. He responded to the temptation, not with logic, or argument, or compromise, but with Scripture. The first response on the Scripture has to do with the nature of the Scripture, and until you get that right you can't deal with temptation properly. Jesus started dealing with temptation with, "It is written". He started with "**Every word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of God". Those that don't hold to these views are going to fall into temptation and lead many others with them. You don't have to look very far

to see churches that have softened on the Scriptures. Find out what has happened to their moral level and virtue. This is where Jesus started and we need to do the same. The Bible issue is basic. You can't properly deal with the homosexuals, druggies, alcoholics and other such until you get the Bible issue right. The devil started by undermining the Bible – "Yea, hath God said?" Jesus told us that we are to live by **every word** that He spoke. Adam didn't pass the test and Eve failed it too. We are still suffering the results of compromise on the Bible issue.

We have seen who is speaking, and to whom He is . We have seen that there is a division between those who agree totally with Jesus and those that are offended at what Jesus said. They want to soften it, change it or weaken it. The devil showed that that was his nature and plan from Genesis throughout the Old Testament. You not only have inspiration and preservation, but you have corruption. Read Jeremiah and other places. Today we have translations based either on the preserved or the corrupted texts. We have Matt. 4:4 in the Greek which is a quote that came from the

Hebrew. I think that would be translation, wouldn't it? What is in the Old Testament and quoted in the New Testament had to be translated divinely. God is interested in translation. He didn't just leave it to us. When we take it upon ourselves without Him, we have lost the Senior Partner, the Head, the Director, the Pattern and the Helper in all this work. Matthew didn't have to do it. God had it done for him. "It is written". This is an issue that runs a little deep, but it's simple enough that a child can grasp it.

Spiritual warfare, maturity, obedient living – all are tied up in this basic verse. Jesus taught us, “It is written”. More than fourteen hundred years had gone by since it had been written, and He still had the same text. It didn’t get corrupted in the Old Testament. It didn’t get corrupted through all the stages of the life of Israel, - captivity, 400 years of silence and all the attacks of the devil and those that hated the Scriptures. Jesus didn’t say, “Well, we have a record that it was written, but, truth be told, the original writing has long been lost, and I want to get it corrected.” He believed in the absolute

preservation of the text and quoted accordingly.

Tell me where in the Gospels He ever had to correct an Old Testament reading? Tell me in the Epistles where Paul ever had to correct an Old Testament reading? This text carries a little weight, doesn't it? "It is written man shall not live by bread alone but by **every word....**" **Every word.**

For men to live right they must have the full Scriptures without any additions or subtractions. **Every word.** Jesus plainly taught this. Satan, as the adversary,

understood the **every word** issue from the beginning. And he keeps at it and at it and at it. Don't be surprised.

Jesus didn't say that some of His words would be lost. Nor did He say that added words will be put in. No, **every word** for every person in every generation would be preserved. Man would be able to live righteously just as much as he lives physically on bread. God's Word is a balanced diet, complete supply, all that is needed, nothing added, nothing subtracted, nothing changed. God wants us to live right and so



has kept the Scriptures right. Jesus understood that, and by implication said that since I am the Eternal Word and that's the written Word, your view of it and of Me are identical. It will be just as pure as I am pure. Those who have doubts about the Bible question who the real Jesus is. They are redefining Him. They are re-merchandising Him. They are trying to package Him to please the world. The Bible wasn't written to please the world but to help the saints and guide the evangelization of the lost. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word...**" You need it all.

You need to read it all, meditate on it all, study it all. Let it soak in. Memorize as much as you can.

The Waldensians had a Bible school up in the Alps. They were not prepared to go out and preach until they had memorized the New Testament and sections of the Old Testament. It was not safe, nor would one likely have a long ministry if he carried a copy of the Scriptures. But they had it in their heads.

The Muslims, in one of the leading training places for the Mullahs, require that

students who want to attend must first memorize, word-perfect, the Koran. I have wondered what would happen if Bible schools required prospective students to memorize the Gospel of John before being accepted as a freshman.

I sat in an ordination exam of a man who had completed four years of Bible school, received his masters degree and was returning as an instructor to teach Old Testament. The answers he was giving bothered me. They were correct answers but he didn't back them up with Scripture.

Finally, I asked him how many times he had read his Bible through. He said he thought he had read it once. I asked him about the Old Testament and he said that was what he wasn't sure about, but he thought between college and seminary he had probably read it all. About that time his Hebrew prof who was sitting two seats from me was hanging his head lower and lower. I said, "You mean you haven't read it all the way through? You have not read **every word** of God's Holy Word that He gave? And you plan to instruct students in it? " He said, "I will work on it between now and September." What are

we doing in Bible-believing circles when regularly reading through the Scriptures is such a foreign idea???

I had a friend in college over 50 years ago. He told me that he was in jail ministry in college and one of the inmates said, "That's not so. The Bible has lots of errors in it." He said, "No, it doesn't," and the inmate argued, "Yes it does." My friend reaffirmed that the Bible had no errors. The inmate put him on the spot when he said, "How many times have you read your Bible through?" This college student had to say, "Well, I

haven't read it through once." The inmate said, "Well, I have, and I say there are errors in it." My friend confessed to me, "I went back to the dorm and started reading my Bible through over and over." **Every word.**

I like the words "plenary" and "verbal". All of it is equally inspired. The historical and scientific passages are not inferior to those on the Gospel. In fact, I came to a conclusion before I ever reached the age of 20 that for truth and doctrine to be important it had to be practical. It must have some practical application in my life.

The virgin birth is a clear picture of how one is born again. Think about it. In Scriptures, **every word** is the basis of living.

I heard the president of a Christian university of over 3000 students stand in chapel and hold up his Bible, giving a long list of things about the Word of God. I asked later, "What Bible does he use?" It was the ESV. Of course if he had held up a King James Bible and said the same things he had just said, they would have called him a Ruckmanite.

God didn't give us thoughts, or principles, or concepts. Those come from what He did give us – WORDS. He gave us words. **Every word.** This word, that word and the other word – all came from the mouth of God.

There was a book published several years ago that expressed what I was taught in college about inspiration – “From the Mind of God to the Mind of Man”. But Jesus said it came from the mouth of God. And it should be to the eye and to the ear of man. “Ye have heard” – and He quoted the Old



Testament. "But I say unto thee" – and He told us the difference between law and grace. He laid these things out. **Every word** is the basis of life. Not just principles drawn from the words, or the words aren't important as long as the principles are still there. That is the foolishness of a lot of these "concept" Bibles. They are not real Bibles. They are not what came from the mouth of God.

I suppose I was in my upper teens when I heard that Paul would have said it that way, Peter this way, and so on.

Have confidence in **every word**.

When God wants to let it loose, He lets it loose. "IT proceedeth from the mouth of God". Not just thoughts, but actual words.

Just let the text sink in a little deeper.

The basis of life is not food, but words. Because I don't have to worry whether Mark put it this way, and Luke put it that way. I know that **every word** proceeded from the mouth of God. All they had to do was record it. You may call that dictation or whatever else you want to call it. I call it what Jesus said. It came from His mouth and proceeded

down so that He could quote it 1400 years later and it would be exactly right. Jesus didn't find it necessary to say, "Well, Moses put it that way but I am going to put it this way". It proceedeth from the very mouth of the Almighty Who has spoken to man.

"It is written" goes back to Deuteronomy 8:3 where the Scriptures say, "And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knowest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by

**every word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord, doth man live.” The Israelites didn’t know about manna, but God sent them manna. Their fathers didn’t know about it. First, He humbled them and then He dealt with them further allowing them to suffer. Then He fed them. Until you get humbled, on the things of God, and until you know what you have to go through of trials and all, you will not get fed and you will not get led.

Consider the context of Deuteronomy 8:3. They are preserved

words. The ones He quoted were preserved. They are going to stay preserved. They can be counted on, - depended on down through the ages.

Let's look at the verse again. "He answered and said, 'It is written man shall not live by bread alone but by **every word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.'" "That proceedeth" has the old English form of the -eth, which meant it has proceeded, it is proceeding, and it will continue to proceed. He was saying the Old Testament words did proceed, I am speaking to you and

His words are proceeding right now, and they will continue to proceed. This proceeding continued to the end of the book of Revelation. Then God, in essence, said, "I am finished giving my words. No more. No more. And if anyone tries to add some, there will be judgment. **Every word** – no more – no less." There is something great in the matter of the preservation and its' absolute purity, so that every generation will have a basis upon which they are able to live.

Suppose the doctor said, "You have a difficulty and you need certain things in your

diet regularly.” He went on to say, “I have a three page list here, but the second one got blurred in some spots and I am going to cut some holes in it too. You just take what’s left of it.” You would say, “I need everything!” That’s exactly the point! These perverted Bibles brag about cutting things out. And thus they damage the souls of those that read them. Even if they had been a right translation, leaving some of it out handicaps the saint of God that wants to live by **every word. Every word.**

I had a pastor come to see me at a Bible conference. He said, "I have a question for you. You are loyal to the King James?" I quietly agreed, "Yes." He questioned further, "You believe it is the preserved Word of God?" I said, "Yes." He then asked, "How did you come to that conclusion?" I began with the very basics on inspiration, - that it was **every word** that proceedeth from the mouth of God. As I laid that out, he said, "You can stop now. IF God gave it word by word of course He would preserve it! I just don't believe He did." That man was arrested for stealing pornographic videos



out of a convenience store years later. I must tell you that one's soul is damaged when he believes wrongly about the Bible!

Let me further illustrate. In Wales a man came to me saying, "Why do you think the King James is better than the NIV?" We had just been out visiting and trying to reach some souls. I suggested that he read the Preface to the NIV. See who translated it and approved it and then check to see if any of their heresies are dealt with therein. The Episcopalians were in on it, so can sprinkling or infant baptism be refuted? The Assembly

of God was involved, so can you Biblically deal with the tongues issue? Can you deal with baptismal regeneration, knowing The Church of Christ contributed? Ask yourself, "Why can't I use this 'Bible' to deal with these issues?" I concluded, "My Bible works. It doesn't pull punches."

Pray for those in Bible translation work. Their task is enormous. Remember, it took generations for the English speaking world to reach the excellence of the King James Bible.

I have one more text I want to point out in the light of Matthew 4:4. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words " – plural – **every word**. "But My words shall not pass away." (Matt. 24:35) The Bible cannot be corrupted. The words cannot be lost. Heaven has more at stake than what the scholars have in the little games they play. I knew this as a boy. It protected me and prepared me for the ministry. What I learned as a young boy I still believe as an old boy. I just believe Jesus was right. I will go with Him if the whole world disagrees.

In the book of Romans we read, "Let God be true but every man a liar." (3:4) If every man disagrees with God, just stick with God. It is really quite simple. Do we believe Jesus or do we think we are smarter, better educated, better trained and we can correct Him? How we feel about the Bible is how we feel about Jesus. And Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by **every word** that proceedeth from the mouth of God." It is easier to get rid of heaven and earth than the words of Jesus. They shall still stand and I want to be standing with His words.



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