

## THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD #4

### **"Nourishment for the New Man"**

#### Review

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> message in our sermon series on "The Power of God's Word".

In our previous messages we learned how it is the power of God's word that causes faith to come into our hearts.

**Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.**

**Romans 10:17**

Then we showed how we are saved by faith and how we become born again by the power of God's word...

...**being born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible,**

**1 Peter 1:23**

We left off last time considering the result of this new birth:

**2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV**

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

It was the power of God's Word that created the universe;  
It is the power of God's word that brings the new birth; When we are born again we become a "new creation"!

#### **Other Translations**

**If anyone is in Christ, he is...**

**a new person (NLT)**

**a new being (TEV)**

**...a new creation. a new creature altogether (AMP)**

The old man I used to be lived by bread alone. But when I am born again by the power in the seed of God's word, the first thing I need, as in the natural, is *nourishment!*

## **I. The New Creature Needs New Nourishment**

**“nourishment”**

**Food, and other things that are needed for health and growth**

### **A. Spiritual Food for the Spiritual Man**

**Derek Prince**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> thing a newborn anything is nourishment. The nourishment it needs must be suited to its stage of development-so the Word is to our newborn person. God’s word is the seed that produces the new birth and the nourishment the newborn spirit needs-suited to every stage of our growth.**

1. The natural man needs natural food; there is potential power in food to supply everything he needs; but when he actually eats, the food is miraculously transformed into muscle, flesh and blood.

a. The food we eat actually becomes a part of us.

2. In the same way, the spiritual man who has been born again needs spiritual food; there is potential power in the Word of God to supply everything the new man needs; when he eats the Word of God it is miraculously transformed into spiritual nutrients like faith, wisdom, understanding and knowledge.

b. The food of the Word actually becomes a part of us.

3. And as we eat different kinds of food in our natural life, so...

### **B. The Nourishment of the Word is Suited to Our Stage of Development**

1. God has designed the Word of God to meet our needs according to our stage of development; it begins with milk.

**1 Peter 2:2**

**Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation...if you have tasted the goodness of the Lord.**

a. A baby craves milk! If you don’t feed a baby, it will cry out for it.

b. Then one little taste ignites the most furious sucking sound!

b. Why? “So that by it (the milk of the Word) you may *grow up*.”

2. We don't expect much of babies; except that we expect them to grow up!

3. There is cause for concern when a baby won't take milk; even more so when that's all they want when they are 10 years old!

### **Hebrews 5:12-14**

**For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

4. A baby needs milk every 2 or 3 hours; but after a while, milk won't do; we want them to move on to solid food; from milk to meat.

5. But the most used metaphor for the Word of God is "bread".

### **C. The Nature of Bread**

1. In His duel with the devil in the wilderness, Satan tempted Jesus 3 times; the 1<sup>st</sup> temptation was over something to eat.

**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.  
Matthew 4:4**

a. The Greek noun for "word" here is "rhema", which specifically refers to the *spoken* word.

b. There is no power in the written words on the page; the Bible on your desk or coffee table; of no more help to your life than having food in the pantry that you never eat!

c. But when we feed on the Word of God we can defeat the Devil Himself by speaking the Word of God; "It is written"!

### **Charles Spurgeon**

**"Out flashed the sword of the Spirit: our Lord will fight with no other weapon. He could have spoken new revelations, but he chose to say, "It is written." There is a power in the Word of God which even the devil cannot deny."**

2. And notice it is “every word” that proceeds out of the mouth of God. “Every word” here obviously includes the Old Testament! It was all Jesus had to quote from at the time, and it was all He needed!

a. The devil offered 3 temptations; Jesus response each time was, “It is written...”

b. All 3 scriptures quoted by Jesus were from the Old Testament; from one book in the Old Testament; as if to teach us that there is enough power in God’s word from just one book in the Old Testament to defeat the devil every time.

3. Testimony: For many years I have labored in teaching God’s people the value of studying the Old Testament. Not just the 10 commandments or the story of David and Goliath; but all the Old Testament as part of “every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God”.

a. The Apostle Paul, who wrote much of the New Testament, tell this to his spiritual son Timothy:

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correction and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

b. We are to live by “every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God”; the Old and New Testaments!

c. Derek Prince pointed out that the Greek literally reads, “as it proceeds out of the mouth of God”, which implies continual feeding.

d. We do not live by every Word God once spoke; we live by every Word that He is speaking to us now; Jesus called this...

**D. Our Daily Bread**

1. In the Lord’s Prayer, with worship; “Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name”; then we pray for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven; only then do we get to ask God something for ourselves; and what is it?

**Matthew 6:11**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

2. When Jesus spoke of “daily bread” to a Jewish audience, they would immediately think of the story of the Manna in the wilderness; the bread God dropped out of heaven on a daily basis.

**Deuteronomy 8:2-3**

**And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.**

a. The miracle of the manna was an object lesson to humble God’s people and teach us daily dependence on God’s Word!

b. This is the same passage Jesus quoted to defeat the devil in Matthew 4! Put it together; eating daily bread defeats the Devil!

3. Our natural man needs natural food every day; and in the same way the spiritual man needs spiritual food every day! Jesus called it...

**E. The True Bread**

1. When He spoke to the religious people of His day...

**John 6:32-33 (NLT)**

**32 Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. 33 The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."**

a. He referred to Himself, the One whose name is “the Word of God”, as the manna for the new man:

**John 6:35**

**And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.**

**NKJV**

c. When He fed the multitude, He said this to those who were following Him just for what they could get from Him:

**John 6:26-27**

**26 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."**

## II. Assessing the Current Culture

### A. The Fall of the Roman Empire

1. Much has been written about the famous **"fall of the Roman Empire"**; but it didn't happen overnight; the Empire that lasted over 1000 years fell after about 200 years of gradual moral and political decline.

2. Rome was never conquered by anyone; it fell from the inside; and there were many factors in the fall, but historians generally agree that part of the problem was the population's obsession with food, sex and the games.

3. The Emperor and the politicians had decided that the best way to keep the people in line was to offer them free food and entertainment; the famous cry of the Roman people at that time was: **"Bread and the Circus!"**

a. The Roman poet Decimus Iunius Juvenalis, known in English as Juvenal, wrote the "Satires", a critique of pagan Rome in the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century...

**"Give them bread and circuses and they will never revolt."**

4. Gradually, the Roman's obsession with sex, food, and sports distracted them from the truly important things of life.

#### **Cicero of Rome**

**"The evil was not in bread and circuses, per se, but in the willingness of the people to sell their rights as free men for full bellies and the excitement of the games which would distract them from the other human hungers which bread and circuses can never appease."**

5. History tends to repeat itself; American culture today is obsessed with food, sex, and sports, things not evil of themselves. But when these things become the *main* things, they tend to displace God and produce moral and spiritual decline.

a. Scottish minister James Hastings, (1852-1922), wrote this:

**James Hastings**

**“Man cannot be satisfied with bread, with anything material—he cannot live upon it; there are portions of his nature which it will not nourish, cravings which it will not satisfy. “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” If man is to live, he must satisfy the deeper cravings first.”**

*Great Quotes from the Bible*

6. My personal observation today is that American culture is becoming like Rome; ever seeking but never satisfied. No nation on earth has ever had more to offer the natural man than ours!

a. But the surveys show that we’re not reading our Bibles; church attendance is down; and Bible knowledge is at an all-time low.

b. Is God judging us as He did the nation of Israel?

**Amos 8:11-12 NKJV**

**“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord God, “That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but shall not find it.**

7. Those obsessed with eating, drinking and entertaining ourselves should fear the famine of hearing the Word of God!

8. And we who preach must avoid the temptation to follow the culture and turn our churches into entertainment centers and self-help seminar. Our sermons can be spiritual “junk food” if we forget our first calling.

**Great Texts of the Bible by James Hastings**

**The most helpful and sacred work, which can at present be done for humanity, is not to teach people how to ‘better themselves,’ but how to “satisfy themselves.” It is the curse of every evil nation and evil creature to eat, and not be satisfied. The words of blessing**

**are, that they shall eat and be satisfied. And there is only one kind of bread which satisfies all hunger by which men shall always be filled, that being the bread of heaven.**

### **III. Conclusion**

#### **A. Review**

1. Our series is “The Power of God’s Word”:

- To put faith in our hearts (Romans 10:17)
- To bring about the new birth (1 Peter 1:23)
- And now we see the power of God’s Word is nourishment for the new man; the thing that feeds us daily with the “true bread”

2. My own personal testimony about God’s Word...

3. Let me close with this from Charles Spurgeon, the “Prince of Preachers” because I cannot say it better:

#### **Charles Spurgeon**

**I commend to you, then, the hiding of God's word in your heart, the pondering of it in your minds; as in Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom" Be rooted and grounded, and stablished in its teaching, and saturated with its spirit. To me it is an intense joy to search diligently in my Father's book of grace. It grows upon me daily. It was written by inspiration in old times, but I have found while feeding upon it, that not only was it inspired when written, but it is so still. It is not a mere historic document, it is a letter fresh from the pen of God to me. It is not a sermon once delivered and ended; it speaks still.”**

#### **ALTAR CALL AND PRAYER**

The Word of God has the power of spiritual food; it will not only give us life it will be nourishment for the new life it gives us!

#### **TITLE**