



## Functions of the Word of God

September 2nd, 2020

### Nourishing

**Jeremiah 15:16** Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.

**Genesis 2:9** And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden...

**Matthew 4:4** But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

**John 6:57** As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

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#### Nourished with the Divine Supply

Jeremiah 15:16 indicates that the word of God is good for us to enjoy. God's word makes our heart joyful. What is crucial here is the revelation that God's word is the divine supply as food to nourish us. Every kind of food has a nourishing element. God's word, the divine supply, surely contains the element of nourishment. This nourishment is related to the divine dispensing, to God's dispensing Himself into us. Through the word as our food, God is dispensing His riches into our inner

being to nourish us that we may be constituted with His element.

#### "Good for Food"—to Satisfy Man

Genesis 2:9 says that the trees were good for food. Notice that the Bible does not say that the trees were good for producing materials, for the concept of Genesis is not that of human labor or achievement. Thus, no manufacturing materials are mentioned. The concept of Genesis 2 is fully focused on life. Thus, it says that the trees were good for food because food is related to

life. Without food, we cannot live. Food maintains our life and satisfies us.

### **Man Needing to Live on the Word of God**

The Word of God is our spiritual life supply. Matthew 4:4 says, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God." This is a quotation of Deuteronomy 8:3. God's words are more important than food. A man who lives only on physical food, not on God's word, will not fulfill God's desire. It is not enough for a person to live on food; he must also live on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God. A proper person cannot live only on physical food; he must also feed on God's word. There is a great difference between those who feed on God's word and those who do not. Most people care for eating only the physical food. They neglect God's word, because they do not know that God's word is the food that man needs. The Lord Jesus' words in Matthew 4:4 show that God's

### **The Lord Jesus Being Food to Man through His Word**

The entire Bible, from the first word to the last, is God's word. It is God's expression and His breathing out. God's word is God Himself. John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." This Word is our Lord Jesus. This is wonderful. The Lord Jesus is God's Word because He is God's expression and explanation. He manifests God; hence, He is the embodiment of God. When man receives Him, man receives God Himself. With the Word is life, nourishment, and supply. God is contained in the Word; hence, when a man

receives the Word, he receives everything that God is.

### **Reading the Word with an Attitude of Eating and Drinking God**

Our attitude should be that the Bible is our food. The Bible is a book of food. When we read the Bible, we should eat this food. Whenever we read the Word, we should have the attitude that we are coming to eat and drink God. If our motive is merely to study truths, analyze teachings, or understand doctrines, we are not eating and drinking God, and the Bible is a book of doctrines and teachings to us. We must have a change in concept to see that the Bible is not a book of God's teaching or truth; it is God's food for us.

This does not mean that the Bible does not contain teachings and truths. The Bible is full of teachings and truths. However, when we receive this book merely as a book of teachings and truths, and we attempt to study it only with our mind, we are but a student of truths and a learner of teachings. The Bible will merely be teachings and truths to us; it will not be life and food to us. But if our view changes, and we consider the Bible to be God's expression and His breathing out, the Bible will be a different book to us. We will realize that since God is food to man, the Bible as His breathed-out word must also be food to man. When we come to the Bible, we must eat and drink God as our food; we must breathe in God Himself and enjoy Him. If we read the Bible this way, it will no longer be a book of teachings, commandments, truths, or doctrines. Instead, it will be God's embodiment, unveiling, expression, and exhaling. It will also be our rich food. We will receive nourishment, supply, and life from every word.