



**Functions of the Word of God**  
September 16th, 2020

**Quenching Our Thirst**

**John 7:37** Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

**John 4:14** But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life.

**John 5:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life...

**1 Cor 10:4** And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.

**1 Cor 12:13** For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

**John 6:63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

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**The Thought in the Entire Bible**

The thought that the Lord is our food and water is seen throughout the Scriptures. For example, in Genesis 2 the tree of life is a picture of the Lord as our life supply of food. Beside the tree of life in Genesis 2 there is the river of water, which is a portrait of the Lord bringing us the rivers

of living water. In other words, this pictures the Lord's purpose in the creation of man—man must eat and drink. If he fails to eat, he will become hungry, and if he fails to drink, he will become thirsty. The Lord is the food to satisfy our hunger, and He has the living water to quench our thirst.

Later in the Scriptures, the children of Israel, as they traveled through the wilderness, also had both food and water. On the one hand, they had the manna from heaven as their daily food (Exo. 16:14-15); on the other hand, they had the living water flowing from the smitten rock to quench their thirst (Exo. 17:6).

First Corinthians 10:3-4 also points out these two things. There, Christ Himself is the spiritual food and He is the smitten rock from which flows the spiritual drink. The Holy Spirit is the spiritual drink flowing out of the crucified Christ. Therefore, Christ is our food, and the Holy Spirit who flows out of Christ is our drink.

Finally, we come to the end of the Scriptures. Again, the flow of the living water is the Holy Spirit, and the tree of life growing in the flow is Christ (Rev. 22:1-2). Hence, there is a line running throughout the whole Scriptures showing us that Christ is our spiritual food, that the Holy Spirit is our spiritual drink, and that man needs both to eat and to drink in order to satisfy his hunger and thirst.

The whole Bible is full of this kind of thought, which is that God wants us to eat and to receive Him. Now in resurrection He is the life-giving Spirit. This Spirit is embodied in His word. When we receive His word by exercising our spirit, we are eating and drinking the Lord. By this, we receive the Spirit who is life. Through this, Christ supplies us not only with the life power for us to run God's race but also with the divine element for God to grow in us.

## **Our Responsibility**

God has no desire for us to do anything for Him. He has done everything for us. However, even though He is our food, we still bear a certain amount of responsibility. Although we do not need to do anything, we still need to eat and drink Him. It is our responsibility to receive Him. We need to do only one thing: we need to receive Him, absorb Him, eat Him, and drink Him. Whether we are up to the proper standard as a Christian depends on whether we are right in the matter of eating, drinking, and enjoying God. Being a Christian depends only on our receiving God. If we have a problem with receiving God we are not up to God's standard as a Christian. Only one thing matters in the Christian life—eating, drinking, and absorbing God.

If we would be proper Christians, we must be drinking Christians. Drinking is a basic thought in the book of 1 Corinthians. In 12:13 Paul says that we have all been made to drink of one Spirit. This concept of drinking was not invented by Paul. The Lord Jesus speaks of drinking in John 4 and also in John 7. In John 4:14 He says to the Samaritan woman, "But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a spring of water welling up into eternal life." According to John 7:37, the Lord Jesus, on the last day of the feast of tabernacles, stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink." Thus, Christ speaks of drinking, and Paul also speaks of drinking. All Christians should be those who enjoy spiritual drinking.