

January 7, 2018  
EVERY WORD - Part 2  
“Every Word... Matters”

One of the issues of life that all too often we don't give enough thought to is, what is *my* ultimate authority in life?

The Bible's authority comes from the authority of God who stands behind it.

Two Types of Authority:

- positional authority: *has* authority by virtue of position
- earned authority: *with* authority because of qualifications and experience

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV): “<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Scripture *has* authority, because it's God-breathed, but it also speaks *with* authority into our lives because through our obedience we discover it transforms our lives, so that we willingly submit to it.

God seeks to wield authority in our lives through the Bible not simply because He *can* but because He loves us and cares about us and has great plans for us.

The God of the Bible, revealed in His Son Jesus Christ doesn't just teach us things that are true - He *is* truth!

Jesus: “...I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6 ESV)

We don't judge whether what Jesus says or the Bible teaches is true or not - It is “truth” by which we judge whether anything and everything *else* is true.

The Bible isn't simply one uniform body of teaching, with every part interpreted the same way, because the Bible is made up of books and writings that are history, prophecy, poetry, songs, letters, wisdom sayings and more.

The Bible is ultimately a story of God's seeking us out and redeeming us, and as a *story*, that means it has movement.

Each passage and book builds on those that have come before, progressively revealing more and more of God and His plan for planet earth and us.

**Jesus:** <sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”  
(Matthew 5:17-18 ESV)

**N.T. Wright:** “When travelers sail across a vast ocean and finally arrive on the distant shore, they leave the ship behind and continue over land, not because the ship was no good, or because the voyage had accomplished their purpose. During the new, dry-land stage of their journey, the travelers remain – and in this illustration must never forget that they remain – the people who made that voyage in that ship.”

The authority of the Bible for our lives is fundamental for disciples of Jesus Christ, but at the same time we can't take a simplistic approach to its authority, so that we take its truth out of context.

It won't always be immediately obvious why certain teachings matter, but because God sees the whole picture, because His authority is positional but also earned, we dare not dismiss parts we don't like or disagree with or don't understand.

**Jesus:** “...‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”” (Matthew 4:4 ESV)

**Jesus:** <sup>24</sup>“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup>And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” (Matthew 7:24-27 ESV)

Some of the things the Bible teaches us keeps us out of trouble, but other parts force us to change our lifestyle and patterns in our lives, because, though they didn't seem so bad at one time, we're committed to the authority of God's Word.

**Isaiah 40:8 (ESV):** “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”

**If the Bible is truth, then regardless of *my* choices, sooner or later my life will be judged by this truth.**

As a disciple of Jesus Christ, I willingly choose now to align my life to Scripture, to acknowledge every word matters, that the Bible has authority for my life because God really is God.

**1 Corinthians 6:20** (NIV11): “you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”

**1 Corinthians 7:23** (NIV11): “You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings.”

**Proverbs 30:5** (ESV): “Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.”

**What I Can Do TODAY!** (see the Find It page at [www.gateway-community.org](http://www.gateway-community.org))

- Begin a daily reading plan of God’s Word starting *today*, January 7<sup>th</sup>, with chapter 7 of the Gospel of Luke (and continue reading one chapter a day)!
- Sign up to be Host for *Move: Studying James Together*.
- Check out RightNow Media for teachings and insights into the Bible.

**Jesus:** “<sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:29-30 ESV)

Get the *Life Journal Bible Reading Plan* at [gateway-community.org/Find-it](http://gateway-community.org/Find-it)

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