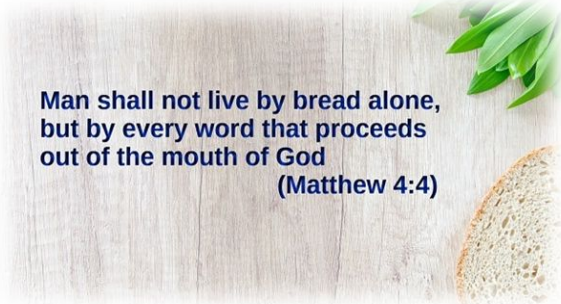


# Maranatha Mirror Message



## THE MOUTH OF GOD



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

***“Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”***

**Matthew 4:4**

From the mouth of God!

Not second-hand.

Not third-hand.

Directly from God's mouth!

Reverend Smith has a wonderful message. And Dr. Brown wrote the best book on the Holy Spirit we've ever read. And don't forget Sister Frances, who is super when it comes to Bible prophecy.

God bless them all.

But there is no substitute for *a word from the mouth of God.*

Brother Ian claims that God talks to him every day. He's certain that he's getting guidance directly from God's mouth. Brother Ian explains that he has learned how to listen, how to ask questions of God and get answers within seconds.

But if you listen carefully to Brother Ian's testimony, you discover that God seems to consistently confirm the desires of Brother Ian's heart.

Never a rebuke from heaven.

Never a correction.

One begins to wonder whether Ian has found the mouth of God or an idol of his own creation.

So what does it mean to live **"by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"**?

Do we depend on God to tell us which socks to put on and what we should have for breakfast? Can we expect the heavenly Father to guide us to just the right parking spot? To lead us to the best bargains in the supermarket?

Is this what it means to **"live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"**?

What about the Bible?

When Satan could not persuade Jesus to turn stones in to bread,  
he began quoting scripture.

"Okay," says Satan. "You want words from the mouth of God? I'll give you some. Why don't you jump from this pinnacle? For it is written, **'his angels shall bear thee up in their hands, list thou dash thy foot against a stone.'**"

Satan can quote scripture all day long,

but when Satan quotes scripture the words drop to the earth like stones.

They are not **"words from the mouth of God"** when Satan quotes scripture.

Words of scripture come to life only when they are quickened...

by the Living Word, the Lord Jesus

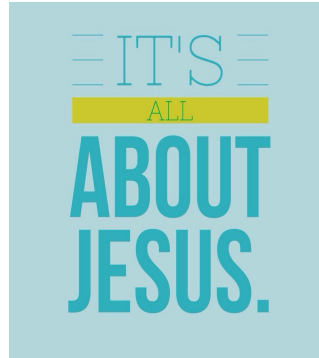
---only when his Spirit sets those words on fire.

**"You search the scriptures,  
for it is in them that you think you have eternal life.  
And they bear witness to me."**

**John 5:39**

To find the mouth of God we need to understand who occupies the Throne.

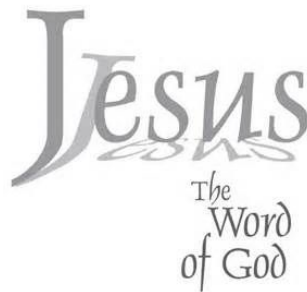
Is the Bible on the Throne, or is Jesus on the Throne?



According to Jesus, the purpose of the Bible is to bear witness to him.

In fact the Bible can only be understood in the light which comes from Jesus, since Jesus, not “scripture,” is on the throne.

The Bible itself makes clear that Jesus alone is the Word of God.



***“In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.***

***He was in the beginning with God;  
all things were made through him,  
and without him  
was not anything  
made that was made.***

***In him was life, and the life was the light of men.  
The light shines in the darkness,***

*and the darkness has not overcome It" .....*

*.... "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace  
and truth; we have beheld his glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father."*

**John 1**

***"And the Word was God."***

The Word was, is, and forever will be the mouth of God.

***"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth."***

The Word dwelt among us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

***"And we beheld his glory..."***

On the Mount of Transfiguration they heard the *Father's* voice from heaven,

***"This is my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him."***

(Because he alone speaks my word in purity and truth. Get this clear: my Son supersedes Moses and Elijah).

Jesus is on the throne,  
he alone is the Mouth of God.

The Bible is God's gift to us as a witness to who Jesus is,

what he has done,  
what he calls us to do,  
and how Jesus will be our Final Judge.

The Bible bears witness to Jesus not only in the New Testament gospels but from Genesis to Revelation.

Once we understand that Jesus is the "mouth of God",  
his Spirit begins to open our ears to his voice in Isaiah, in Zechariah, in Malachi, etc.

***Every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.***

For centuries the faithful heard the Bible say **“Thou shalt not kill.”** They understood the command literally.

But now, from the mouth of God, comes the true meaning of the ancient command.

***"You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.'  
But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire."***

**Matthew 5:21-22**

All believers know from their Bible that adultery is forbidden.

But now, from the mouth of God comes the true meaning of the ancient command.

***"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'  
But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."***

**Matthew 5:27-28**

All through scripture swearing an oath was looked upon as a holy act. One swore an oath before God in fear and trembling.

But now, from the mouth of God comes a command which sounds like a contradiction.

***"Again you have heard that it was said to the men of old,  
'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'  
But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven,  
for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool,  
or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.  
And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.  
Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No';  
anything more than this comes from evil."***

**Matthew 5:33-37**

Speak the truth consistently. Live with integrity, and there is no need for oaths.

***Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil."***

***"But I say to you."***

No wonder the scribes and Pharisees were upset! Jesus had the audacity to contradict the Bible! ***"You have heard that it was said....but I say to you..."***

Whenever we hear Jesus say, **“But I say to you,”**

we need to pay attention, because we are hearing words from the mouth of God.

Jesus declared all foods clean, a direct contradiction of scripture, as it had always been understood. Jesus took liberties with the Sabbath that shocked the theologians and teachers of the Torah. From their point of view Jesus was breaking the Sabbath.

But Jesus was not “breaking the Sabbath.”

Jesus was revealing to those who Have ears to her and eyes to see that Jesus IS the Sabbath.

**“Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”**

**Matthew 11:28**

True Sabbath Rest can be found nowhere but in Jesus.

**“Every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”**

Not just a word here and there.

Not just a word that suits our agenda.

Every word.

In his sovereignty the Father has seen to it that all the essential words of Jesus are preserved to us. But some of those words of Jesus are difficult to grasp.

We are inclined to select our favorite sayings of Jesus and quietly ignore the words that jar our sensibilities.

For example, Jesus repeatedly commands us to avoid the status structures of this world in our life together as believers. He expressly commands us to avoid titles.

Yet we seem to find it convenient to ignore these words from the mouth of God.

**“But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren.**

**And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.**

**Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ.**

**He who is greatest among you shall be your servant;**

**whoever exalts himself will be humbled,**

**and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”**

**Matthew 23:8-10**

“It’s such a minor thing, Lord. Why do you make such a big deal out of it? Your servants among us have been called ‘Pastor’, or ‘Father’, or ‘Teacher’, or ‘Rabbi’ for centuries!”

The words of Jesus are few, simple and clear. When we listen to those words like Moses listened at the Burning Bush, the Spirit of God causes them to burn with fire.



When we take Jesus’ words into our hearts and obey them,  
those words become our Living Bread.

To understand the Bible,  
to hear the voice of the living God,  
to know where we fit in the Kingdom of God,

there is only one starting point,  
one door:

The words of Jesus.

Jesus did for us what we could never do for ourselves.

By his death and resurrection he opened the way of eternal life for all.

**“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth (on the cross) will draw all people to myself.”**  
**John 12:32**

Jesus draws us to himself.

Jesus speaks to us words that are Spirit and life.

Our job is to live by those words.

For they come from the mouth of God.

Prayer

Holy Jesus, beautiful, Living Word, we bow before you because we can know God for you are the mouth of God. As we are drawn to you, our Living Bread, may we be quickened and set afire as we take your words into our hearts and live them.

Maranatha Mirror