

# THE WORD FOR OUR LIFE

Templed Hills—March 24–26, 2006

Message One

## THE BIBLE—GOD’S SPEAKING

### I. The Bible is a wonderful book because it is God’s speaking—Matt. 22:31; Exo. 24:4; Mark 12:36; 14:10, 26; 16:13; Acts 3:18; 28:25; Rom. 1:2; Heb. 10:15a

*Exo. 34:27a And Jehovah said unto Moses, Write these words....*

*2 Sam. 23:2 The Spirit of Jehovah spoke through me [David], And His word was on my tongue.*

*John 12:49–50 For I have not spoken from Myself; but the Father who sent Me, He Himself has given Me commandment, what to say and what to speak. 50 And I know that His commandment is eternal life. The things therefore that I speak, even as the Father has said to Me, so I speak.*

*Acts 3:21 Whom heaven must indeed receive until the times of the restoration of all things, of which God spoke through the mouth of His holy prophets from of old.*

*Matt. 22:31 But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read that which was spoken to you by God, saying....*

#### A. Our God is a speaking God—Matt. 22:31

*Heb. 1:1–2 God, having spoken of old in many portions and in many ways to the fathers in the prophets, 2 Has at the last of these days spoken to us in the Son, whom He appointed Heir of all things, through whom also He made the universe.*

#### B. The source of all the speaking in the Bible is God—Exo. 24:4a; 2 Sam. 23:1–3 cf. 1 Cor. 10:4; Jer. 1:7; Ezek. 1:3; John 14:24; 1 Cor. 2:13

*2 Pet. 1:20–21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of one’s own interpretation; For no prophecy was ever borne by the will of man, but men spoke from God while being borne by the Holy Spirit.*

#### C. Those who are of God hear God’s speaking—John 10:27

*John 8:47 He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.*

#### D. We need to hear God’s speaking every day—Zech. 7:7a

### II. God’s speaking (The Bible) is true—Num. 23:19; 2 Pet. 3:15–16

*Psa. 119:160a The sum of Your word is truth... (Your word is true from the beginning...)*

*2 Sam. 7:28 And now, O Lord Jehovah, You are God, and Your words are true....*

### III. God’s speaking is of Christ—1 Pet. 1:10–12; Acts 7:38; Psa. 40:7

*John 5:39–40 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me. 40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.*

*John 5:46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote concerning Me.*

*Heb. 10:7 Then I said, Behold, I have come (in the roll of the book it is written concerning Me) to do Your will, O God.”*

#### A. The subject of the Bible is Christ, from beginning to end

*Luke 24:27 And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, He explained to them clearly in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

*Luke 24:44 And He said to them, These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all the things written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and Psalms concerning Me must be fulfilled.*

#### B. God speaks to us in the Son—Heb. 1:1–2; 1 Pet. 1:10–12; John 5:39

#### IV. The Bible makes us wise unto salvation

*2 Tim. 3:15 And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

#### V. God's speaking is complete—Deut. 12:32; Prov. 30:5–6; Rev. 22:18–19

*Deut. 4:2 You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor shall you take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of Jehovah your God, which I am commanding you.*

#### VI. We have to read the Bible and hear God's speaking—Heb. 4:12; Matt. 22:31; John 8:47a; Acts 17:11; Rev. 1:3; 2:29; Heb. 3:15; John 5:46–47; 2:22; 1 Thes. 2:13

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### Supplementary Message

### ***THE BATTLE FOR THE BIBLE***

#### I. The contents of the Bible

- A. Two sections—66 books (39 Old Testament; 27 New Testament)
- B. Written by approximately 36 writers—about 28 Old Testament; 8 New Testament
- C. Written over approximately 1,600 years—Moses (1500 B.C.) to John (95 A.D.)
- D. Yet the Bible is one book with one thought presenting one God with one heart's desire, one purpose, and one goal for man with no inconsistencies or contradictions because the Bible has one Author—God (2 Pet. 1:20–21)

#### II. The history of the Bible

- A. Compiled and canonized by men of God recognizing the word of God (John 8:47 2 Pet. 3:15–16).
  1. 500 BC—Hebrew manuscripts
  2. 200 BC—Septuagint (Greek) manuscripts
  3. 397 AD—27 books of the New Testament determined at the Council of Carthage
- B. Fall into the Dark Ages
  1. Late in the first century, the church fathers began to take the Bible as a book of doctrine rather than as Spirit and as life (John 6:63; 2 Cor. 3:6b).
  2. Constantine legalized Christianity in Roman Empire (312 AD) and the Roman Catholic Church is born with one theology based on the Bible as a book of doctrines; the Bible is only available in Latin (the Vulgate).
  3. God's word is light (Psa. 119:105; 2 Pet. 1:19) and the Dark Ages were the result of the Bible being locked up and unavailable to the common people for nearly 1,000 years.
- C. In the 14th through 16th centuries, many believers sacrificed all in order to translate the Bible into the common language and make it available to the common man.
  1. John Wycliffe (1320's–1384)
    - a. Born in England; educated at Oxford; received Doctorate in Theology (ThD) which gave him access to the Latin Bible
    - b. Believed each man was responsible to God and to God's law—the Bible, not to the Pope or to church councils and traditions; so, the Bible has to be accessible and readable by each man in the common language
    - c. Led the effort to translate the Bible into English; translation work was also done by Nicholas of Hereford and John Purvey, his secretary who continued his work after his death
    - d. Died after a stroke but after his death, the Pope ordered his body exhumed, burned, and the ashes cast into the Thames

- e. Work led to the Constitutions of Oxford which prohibited the translation and reading of the Bible in the common language without the permission of the Roman Catholic Church
  - f. His writings affected John Huss who was burned at the cross in Bohemia for promoting Wycliffe's views and John Colet drew thousands when he read and preached the word of God in St. Peter's Basilica in English.
2. Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1455.
    - a. This invention allowed the mass printing of Bibles.
    - b. Previously, it would take ten or more months to produce one copy by hand; now, hundreds of Bibles could be printed in a year.
    - c. The first book printed was the Bible, but in Latin, not in the common language of any European nations.
  3. Martin Luther (1483–1546)
    - a. Born in Germany; educated and received his ThD; priest in the Roman Catholic Church which gave him access to the Latin Bible
    - b. After receiving the revelation of salvation by faith, in 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses at Wittenberg beginning his struggles with the Roman Catholic Church
    - c. Believed the Bible was the ultimate authority for a Christian to live by—*sola scriptura* (the Scriptures only)
    - d. Condemned at the Diet of Worms in May 1521 as a heretic and excommunicated
    - e. Kidnapped and hidden by friends after the Diet of Worms so that he would not be martyred and could begin translation of the Bible into German
    - f. September 1522—the German New Testament was printed—the first non-Latin Bible that was produced by the printing press.
    - g. 1534—the complete Bible in German, which was translated as a collaborative effort of Martin Luther and others, was printed
  4. William Tyndale (1494–1536)
    - a. Considered the father of the English Bible—translated the Bible into English from the original Hebrew and Greek; his translation was also used as the basis for much of the King James version
    - b. Educated at Oxford and Cambridge and believed strongly the Bible should be available to the common man in the common tongue
    - c. When confronted by a priest and the laws of the Pope, Tyndale's response was "I defy the Pope and all his laws. If God spare my life ere many years, I will cause the boy that drives the plow to know more of the Scripture than you."
    - d. Due to the Constitutions of Oxford, Tyndale attempted earnestly in England to get permission to translate the Bible into English but was unable to find a sponsor
    - e. In 1524 Tyndale moved to continental Europe to translate the Bible into English
    - f. 1525—the New Testament in English was printed in Cologne and Worms; copies were smuggled into England
    - g. 1525–1536—he translated much of the Old Testament into English
    - h. 1536—when he was betrayed and burned at the stake Tyndale's last words were "Lord, open the King of England's eyes."
    - i. Tyndale's prayer was answered three years later with the Great Bible—the first English Bible authorized for public use.

**THE BIBLE—GOD'S BREATHING**

**I. God's breathing in creation**

*Genesis 2:7 Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.*

*Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives them understanding.*

**II. God's breathing in the new creation**

*John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.*

**III. God's breathing to sustain us**

*2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

**IV. God's breathing brings the element of God into us**

*John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.*

*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.*

A. Truth—truth replaces the vanity of corruption with the reality of all the divine riches  
*Ephesians 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word.*

*John 13:5 Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.*

*John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*

*Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,*

*Psalms 119:9 With what should a young man keep his way pure? / By guarding it according to Your word.*

B. Life—eternal life not only swallows up death but also renders the life supply

*1 Peter 1:23 Having been regenerated not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the living and abiding word of God.*

*James 1:18 He brought us forth by the word of truth, purposing that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*

*James 1:15 Then the lust, having conceived, gives birth to sin; and the sin, when it is fully grown, brings forth death.*

*Psalms 119:11 In my heart I have treasured up Your word / That I might not sin against You.*

*Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

C. Light—the Holy Scripture not only dispels the confusion but also furnishes divine light and revelation

*2 Pet. 1:19 And we have the prophetic word made more firm, to which you do well to give heed as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.*

*Proverbs 20:27 The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah, / Searching all the innermost parts of the inner being.*

*Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet / And a light to my path.*

*Rom. 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.*

*2Tim. 1:6 For which cause I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*

*Eph. 5:8 For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light.*

## V. The way to receive God's breathing by praying and singing

*Ephesians 6:17–18* And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, By means of all prayer and petition.

*Colossians 3:16* Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

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### Message Three

## **THE BIBLE—GOD'S FEEDING**

### I. The Bible is our food

#### A. We eat the word of God to live

*Matt. 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."

#### B. By eating the word of God we are constituted with God

*Ezekiel 3:1–3* 1 Then He said to me, Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel. 2 So I opened my mouth, and He gave me that scroll to eat. 3 And He said to me, Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your inward parts with this scroll that I am giving you. And I ate it, and it was like honey in my mouth in its sweetness.

#### C. You are what you eat

*Matt. 12:34b–35* For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man, out of his good treasure, brings forth good things, and the evil man, out of his evil treasure, brings forth evil things.

*Phil. 2:15–16* That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world, Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

### II. Why do we eat?

#### A. To grow unto salvation

*1 Peter 2:2–3* As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation, If you have tasted that the Lord is good.

#### B. To be nourished by the word which we closely follow

*1 Timothy 4:6* If you lay these things before the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, being nourished with the words of the faith and of the good teaching which you have closely followed.

#### C. To be strengthened

*Psalm 119:28* My soul melts because of grief; / Strengthen me according to Your word.

#### D. For enjoyment

*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.

*Psalm 19:10* More to be desired are they than gold, / Even much refined gold; / Sweeter also than honey / And the drippings of the honeycomb.

*Psalm 119:111* Your testimonies are my heritage forever, / For they are the gladness of my heart.

### III. How to enjoy the word—by means of all prayer

*Ephesians 6:17–18a* And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit . . .

Message Four  
**THE BIBLE—GOD’S WILL**

**I. God’s Will is revealed in the Bible**

*Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

A. Christ came as a God-man to carry out the Father’s will

*Hebrews 10:7 “Behold, I have come . . . to do Your will, O God.”*

B. God’s will is for us to be men of God, God-men partaking of God’s life and nature to become one with Him and do His will on the earth

*2 Timothy 3:16–17 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.*

**II. Satan’s Will is opposed to God’s Will and is embodied in the world and carried out by the rebellious spirit of disobedience (See Eph. 2:2 notes 2<sup>1</sup> & 2<sup>3</sup>)**

*Romans 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.*

*1 John 2:17 And the world is passing away, and its lust, but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

*1 Timothy 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, meekness.*

**III. God’s Word must dwell in us and be our delight**

*Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.*

*Psalms 119:16 I will take delight in Your statutes; / I will not forget Your word.*

**IV. Our Will is to choose to receive and obey God’s Will revealed in His Word**

*Luke 11:28 But He said, Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it.*

*James 1:21–22 Therefore . . . receive in meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. And become doers of the word and not hearers only who delude themselves.*

*Psalms 119:112 I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes / Forever, to the end.*

*John 7:17 If anyone resolves to do His will, he will know concerning the teaching . . .*

*2 Corinthians 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.*

**V. The Father’s Blessing is for those who love the Lord and keep His word**

*John 14:23–24 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.*

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**Conference Summary**

**How should we respond to the Word of God?**

- We must **read** the Bible
- We must **believe** God’s speaking by having an open heart
- We must **receive** God’s breathing by having an exercised spirit
- We must **enjoy** God’s feeding by having a hungry heart and a thirsty spirit
- We must **obey** God’s will by having a willing heart and an obedient spirit