

Not By Bread Alone

by Wayne Goff

"...It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4 from Deuteronomy 8:3).

Most readers would recognize this passage as Jesus' response to Satan to turn stones into bread, but I wonder how often we reflect upon the truth Jesus stated. Job said that he treasured God's Word more than his necessary food (Job 23:12). Moses wrote in the book of Deuteronomy that God humbled Israel and allowed them to experience hunger so that they might learn that man does not live by *physical sustenance* but more importantly by trust in and obedience to God. Jesus showed His own trust in God by refusing to use His miraculous powers to satisfy His own needs. He would learn to obey the Father under all life's conditions.

So herein lies the application for us. God is ever trying to teach us to trust in Him and not to fret, fuss and worry over life itself. God is in control, His providence provides for our needs, and He allows us to be tempted, tried and proven by the difficult circumstances in life. We need to remember these things.

Man trusts in **himself** when he puts his job above the Lord, or when he worries needlessly about things that may never happen, or when he thinks "it all depends on me"! It is fine to pray, "*Lead us not into temptation*" (Matt. 6:13) but we must also remember that we are to "*count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience*" (James 1:2-3). We cannot have a life of ease and plenty and still learn patience, longsuffering and character!

*"...But we also **glory in tribulations**, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3-4). Paul learned this lesson when his "*thorn in the flesh*" was sent to buffet him. Jesus reminded him that "**My strength is made perfect in weakness**" (2 Cor. 12:7-9). Paul got the message, and we need to learn the same thing. **Trust in God and obey Him always, under all circumstances.** "*Bread alone*" won't get you through life successfully!*

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