



Man's Basic Spiritual Problem

You should now be able to identify man's basic spiritual problem—believing the integrity of the word of God. Does it mean what it says when it says it, why it says it, and where it says it?

(Deu 8:3) And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Man does not live by bread alone.

I've already taught you that God



does not have a mouth, so when his word attributes such a human characteristic to him, what does it mean? This is a figure of speech called condensencio. It is used when God is made to condescend to the level of man in terms of description, in order to emphasize any certain point. Man does need bread and perhaps he gets a little too much of it at times. The soul of man must be fed soul food, but what about when man needs spiritual food?

The spiritual part of a man is fed spiritual food. Spiritual food is

"every word which proceeds out of the mouth of God."

Spiritual Weakness

The word of God is that food required by man so that he might be able to renew his mind in order to manifest the triumphant life.

Spiritual weakness and inability can be due only to improper food or neglect of the word of God.

The neglect today is when the bible is read but not understood.

Who has taught us figures of

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speech? Who has taught us doctrine, reproof and correction? Who has taught us the nine manifestations, and so many other things? We have not made the word to live.

Neglect

The neglect of the word issues from a heightened lack of understanding when it is read. When you read it, what do you know? Practically nothing.

Improper food

Improper food is attributed to the wrong dividing of God's word.

(2 Tim 2:15) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

When we fail to understand the word of God, we follow after the

doctrines and traditions of men. Then we become blown about by every wind and doctrine. Most men and women are usually held spellbound by the fleeting shadows of a few great names rather than by the word. If Dr. so and so said it, then it has to be true. We are not to be held spellbound by the names of a few men. We are to go to the word and bind ourselves to it. People believe what men say and then go to the word to try to substantiate their believing. That is the wrong way. Whether I believe it or not, it is still God's word and this is why believing the integrity of the word is at stake. It's what we learn after we already know it that is important.

A man can believe what he wants to believe. That's his privilege. If a five gallon bucket is full, you can't put anymore into it until you empty some out. Then and only then will you have needed space.

This word is accurate. It fits with a mathematical exactness and a scientific precision. We must be honest and allow God's word to have its place in our lives. Let the word speak and adjust your thinking to what the word says.

Traditions and commandments of men

Following traditions instead of following God's word is an easy road, but is it the right road? If a man thinks he knows it and does not, it is impossible to teach him.

(Mark 7:1-9) Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. {2} And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. {3} For the Pharisees, and all the

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Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. {4} And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brazen vessels, and of tables. {5} Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? {6} He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. {7} Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. {8} For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the

washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. {9} And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

These folks were religious, but that doesn't mean that they were biblically accurate. Yet, a majority of the Jews followed them. Beware of your own traditions, refusing to allow them to take precedence over Christian doctrine.

(Eph 1:17-19) That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: {18} The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, {19} And what

is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Ephesians tells us God's desire for man. Carefully observe that which God made available to his people—spiritual wisdom, knowledge, enlightenment, hope, riches, inheritance, and exceeding great power! We must delve into God's word to determine what is available and how to receive it. We need to have an accurate knowledge of God's word. Man looks for what other men say; we must go to the word, for it is the word of God that shows us God's Will.

(Col 2:8) Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

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We can be spoiled through philosophy and vain deceit. About the time you think you won't be, it can start to happen. Always be on guard against these negative ploys. The word that we receive is not to be after the philosophies and traditions of men and the rudiments of this world, but after what Christ did for us. All of your works won't do it for God—you must be aligned to his word.

(1 Cor 2:4-5) And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: {5} That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

God desires that our believing rests in his power.

(Psa 18:30) As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the

LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

God's way is perfect. You can't get much better than that. Go to his word and allow him to fulfill your every need.

(Psa 119:14) I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

Would you rejoice in the word as if you had found great riches?

(Psa 19:8-10) The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. {9} The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. {10} More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

God's word is to be more desired than gold, yea, than much fine gold. Is the word of God this to you?

(James 3:17) But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

God's word is easy to receive. His words are from above, and if they are, then we ought to wash out our ears to embrace the greatness of each and every one of them.

(Rom 12:2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

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The renewed mind transformation is one of the most powerful tools given to mankind. The instruction—be ye transformed—is clear. We must change our minds and believe what the word of God says.

The greatest of God's works is his word. He placed it above his name. If we would make it our own, then all of its benefits would come to us. If it will ever work for us, we have to change our daily habits and activities and search the scriptures for God's wonderful promises. All of the keys for the great triumphant life in Christ are contained in the word of God. We must believe God's word in order to tap into these abundant resources for the triumphant life!

Much Love in Christ!

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