

RUSSELL SANDERS

5-17-2021

SPEAK THE WRITTEN WORD

The written word of God is powerful. Its power is unleashed against the enemy when we speak the word out loud. Jesus is an example of speaking scripture to Satan when He was tempted in the wilderness after forty days of fasting. Satan told Jesus to use his power to turn the nearby stones to bread to satisfy His hunger. Jesus did have the miracle-working power to do that, but he was not going to submit to anything from the mouth of Lucifer.

Jesus replied to Satan by quoting scripture to the devil. In a "it is written" statement, Jesus said to him, **"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."** (Matthew 4:4.) Satan was unable to rebut that. He had no power or authority against the word of God.

How did Jesus know that "it is written"? It is because He had read the written word from the scrolls ever since His childhood. Devout Jewish boys were expected to memorize the first five books of the written word by age twelve. They would be tested on it for their Bar Mitzvah at age thirteen.

The Matthew 4:4 quote of Jesus (also Luke 4:4) was spoken by him verbatim from Deuteronomy 8:3 which reads (NKJV) **"...man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live."**

In all three commands of Satan, Jesus answered by quoting the Bible. We, like Jesus, also overcome thoughts brought by Satan and his demonic spirits by speaking the word of God.

To speak it, you must first know it. That is why it is imperative to read your Bible, then follow up by a deeper study of what you read.

You can also learn by listening to teachers or preachers. However, how will you know they are speaking truth if you have not read it for yourself and studied it? What they teach should primarily be either [1] a confirmation or expansion of what you have already read at some time past, or [2] spark an interest within you to dig deeper into the Bible from what they said. Do not make the common mistake of simply taking "their word for it" because you suppose they know more than you. That is how error can easily spread and become the "perceived truth."

Yes, even preachers or teachers can become agents of deceit and error. We are told this in II Corinthians 11:13-15. Satan can use them to mislead the church body. That is why you must know the Word for yourself rather than take someone else's "word" for it.

Speak the word. It is your "sword of the Spirit," (Ephesians 6:17) to destroy the works of the enemy.