

If we were to think of how much time we devote to eating, it would most likely be far less than the time we give to consuming our spiritual food, the Word of God. How backwards this is when we realize how precious and important the intake of God's Word is to our souls!

It's easy to think of Jesus' rebuking statement to the devil, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but by every Word of God" (Matt 4:4). However, to live that out in our daily lives is a much tougher practice. The New Testament reveals Jesus as one who mastered scripture as he used it constantly to point others to His Father. Paul tells Timothy that "all scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim 3:16).

If we merely think of Scripture as something to read in order to gain head knowledge of our Creator, we are greatly mistaken. We should be breathing His Word, for it is as essential to our soul as air is to our body. Too often we fail to realize that the study of Scripture is a *necessity* for a loving, intimate relationship with the Holy One. How then shall we truly know who He is if we do not read His love letters to us? How can we preach without having His Word embedded into our minds and hearts? We will never be able to recognize false teaching without knowing the Truth.

Recognize this: every time one reads the Word of God, trying to know God more, that *is* an encounter with God Himself. Whenever you open up scripture with a yearning heart, God is speaking to you right then and there. As much as one would never think to starve one's body from food, it would be better to eat nothing for weeks than to starve one's soul from the precious Word of God. If your appetite for God's Word is dry, your walk with God will also be dry.