

## The Bible as the Word of God

If you don't believe the Bible, its promises will do you no good. Kittens do not know that those flat cans have food inside. Later, by routine, cats know those cans mean food. But without the ability to use a can opener (belief) that food still does them no good. There are lots of Christian folks in Union County. Each one believes that the Bible has good things inside it. But until you personally grab hold of the promises by faith, those good things remain "in the can."

Jesus said, "All things are possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23). Don't let your circumstances or your education talk you out of taking the Bible literally as the very "Word of God." I like the phrase Kenneth E. Hagin often used, "The Word of God is God speaking to me!" Many wonder how to hear the voice of God. It's easy. Open the Bible and read. That is God speaking to you.

I have stood in the exact spot at Forest Home Conference Center in southern California where Billy Graham re-dedicated himself to accepting the Bible by simple faith as the very Word of God. A plaque overlooking a small pond commemorates that event. Because of a friend's influence with higher critical Biblical studies, doubt had begun to insinuate itself in Billy Graham's mind. At that very spot, in 1943, he let go of those doubts and claimed in simple faith the Bible to be the very Word of God. And history changed.

How about you? Is the Bible just a respected book or is it "God speaking to you"? Would you like an example of how this works? Take Isaiah 40:31: "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Who does this promise apply to? Well, to those "that wait upon the Lord" – in other words, those who trust Him. Is that you? If so, this is God's promise to you. **BUT YOU MUST BELIEVE IT.** Otherwise it will just be nice words suitable for framing as artwork, possibly inspiring, but not bringing you the strength promised.

Here is how I "grab hold" of that particular promise. I say it out loud, personalizing it as being true for me, not in some distant time in the future, but right now. "Lord, I thank you that because I wait on you in trust, I am renewed in strength right now. I mount up with wings as an eagle. Right now I run and am not weary; I walk and do not faint. Thank you, Lord!" Then, ignoring the tired feelings present in my body, I move forward in faith, believing this promise to be true for me, now, because God is the one making the promise! And the promise, having been believed and acted upon, then becomes true in fact.