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“PROVE ALL THINGS, HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD.”

THE VOICE OF GOD AND THE WORD OF GOD.

THE GOSPEL NOW THE WORD OF GOD.

It is very instructive to examine, with great accuracy, the various uses and applications of important words and phrases in the sacred writings. By so doing we form an acquaintance with the language which those holy men used as they spoke by the Holy Spirit; and from such an acquaintance with their language, we obtain the same ideas which they entertained of the great objects of christian faith and hope. Words and phrases which, in the Jewish writings, were used in a more general sense, are, in the New Institution, used in an appropriated sense. Thus while the term *Christ* was generally applied to all the anointed ones in the Jewish Age, it is in the apostolic writings exclusively appropriated to the Saviour. The phrase “*the Word of God*,” is used in a like restricted sense in the apostolic writings.” From the ascension of Jesus it is appropriated to denote the glad tidings concerning Jesus. This is its current acceptation; so that out of *thirty-four* times which it occurs, from Pentecost to the end of the volume, it thirty times obviously refers to the gospel. On three occasions it is applied to the literal *voice of God* at the Creation and the Deluge, and once to him who is in his own person the *Word of God*. But what I wish to note here, is, that it is never applied to any *writing* or *speech* from the day of Pentecost, but to the gospel or proclamation of mercy to the human race. The previous writings given to the Jews are not called the *Word of God* now, because this phrase has in it the idea of the present command and will of God.

“A word of God,” or “a word of the Lord,” or “a message from the Lord,” are phrases which frequently occur in the Jewish scriptures, and always refer to the immediate communication made by some messenger and addressed to some particular occasion. It did not mean what was before written or spoken, but what was spoken at that particular time, and by that particular person. For example, “a word of God came to Nathan;” “a word of God came to John in the wilderness.” Some particular message is always intended, implying a command with promises or with threatenings accompanying.