

## “Dad Said So,” But Did He?

When a child goes to his mom and says, “Dad said it is OK for me to have a piece of candy,” there seems to be authority behind the statement. Parents try not to contradict each other, and they are wise to a child trying to pit one parent against the other. If in doubt, the wise mother might ask the question, “Did he really say it was OK for you to have a piece of candy?” At that point, the child realizes that the message's authenticity is being questioned, and usually tells the truth. The child knows that the information will be verified and credibility is at stake.



The correctness of a message often depends on the authority of the one delivering it. There have been many “false prophets” who have said things without the backing of God’s Word. Their message is unreliable, and often they were just using God’s name for their own purposes. God sent John the Baptist to “prepare the way of the Lord,” announcing the coming of Jesus Christ. (Read John 1:22-23). God gave us the scriptures, the Word of God, put on paper by writers inspired by God Himself. And, God sent his Son, Jesus, who delivered God’s message with full authority of the Father. Jesus was speaking for God. An excellent example is the Great Commission: *Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:18-20.)

When listening to people claiming to be giving us God’s guidance for our lives, ask yourself if the message is highlighting God’s Word or the messenger’s? Who is the centerpiece of the presentation? Does it point to God or themselves? On whose authority is the person speaking? Like the wise mother in our analogy, feel free to question the source. If it is from the Heavenly Father, then you can trust the authority and validity of the message. God’s written Word in the Bible is infallible. If our Heavenly Father said so, we can trust and follow it.

**The Bible Says:** *For this reason, we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe (1 Thessalians 2:13).*

**Closing Prayer:** **Lord.** You give us direction for our lives through scripture. Let us listen to those words and meditations based on Your Word. Amen.

*The theme for this devotion is based on Portals of Prayer, a September 17, 2022 devotion.*

**Personal Note:** I write weekly devotions as a ministry to others and for my own spiritual growth. My devotions use contemporary examples to show how God’s Word applies to us in today’s world. Each devotion is designed to reflect God’s Word with a faith lesson based on scripture. If there is no scripture reference it would not reflect God’s Word. The basis for the devotion is on scripture, not “moral” or feel-good lessons. I go back to the source to see if the message is based on God’s Word. Our church recently finished a sermon series that looked at generally accepted phrases that have no basis in scripture. Take the time to verify what the Bible says about a topic, not merely accepting contemporary thought. Growing up, I remember clearly the words spoken by Pastor Saresky as he began each sermon: **“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.”** I pray that my own words and meditations are acceptable to the Lord. He is my strength and my redeemer.