



Sept 13, 2026
Series: Week 2
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THE WORD OF GOD

Essential Practice #1 - The WORD: Humbly learning from the inspired Scriptures, through the ongoing ministry of the Spirit, how to follow Jesus and become like Him.

God's Word – The Battle in the Wilderness Luke 4:1-13

“Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where He was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.” Luke 4:1-3

Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and led by the Spirit. He was right where He was supposed to be.

- To face the enemy, we must allow God to define us. We're His children and He loves us. Luke 3:21-22
satan repeatedly sought to influence Jesus by convincing Him he had a better plan - - Same tactic for us.

“If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Luke 4:3-4

“I will give it all to You if You will worship me.” Luke 4:5-8

“... ‘If you are the Son of God, jump off.’” Luke 4:9-12

Each time satan attacked, Jesus countered with God's Word. He knew the Word and truly believed it.

- Jesus felt no need to prove Himself or to circumvent His Father's plan that would lead to the cross.

God's Word – Like No Other Book

The Word of God is the only resource that can transform you. Prioritize Scripture. Make it your Go-To.

“Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, ²¹or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.” 2 Peter 1:20-21

Christianity rests on the foundation of God's Word. Multitudes throughout the ages have based their lives and destinies on these facts. With this in mind, its accuracy, reliability, and authority are essential.

The Evangelical Free Church of America holds the Word of God in high esteem as stated below:

The EFCA Statement of Faith: *We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.*

Any individual, denomination, or group that begins to reject the accuracy or authority of Scripture steps onto a slippery and dangerous slope. They may still refer to the Bible, but over time, their relevancy evaporates.

- The Holy Bible is superior to the words of any preacher, any teacher, the content of any book, or the advice or private interpretation of any friend or influencer. Filter everything through Scripture.

God's Word – Our Discipleship Manual

Every time we expose ourselves to the Bible, God Himself is breathing truth into our lives.

“For the Word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”

Hebrews 4:12

The Word of God isn't just another resource used to provide some good ideas. It alone can truly transform us – Expose our blind spots – Slice into the core of our being – Face us with the Truth.

- Choosing to live autonomous of God leads to the manipulation or total avoidance of God's Word.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Every time we connect to God's Word, we are infused with the life-giving breath of the Triune God.

- The Result: (1.) Growth takes place. (2.) Correction - The plumbline of Truth exposes sin. (3.) We learn what is right and true. (4.) Discipleship – We become more effective in *Sharing the Heart of Jesus*.

God's Word – Activate It

Reasons We Avoid God's Word: (1.) Our Sin - We choose our way over God's way. (Is. 59:2) (2.) We feel like God didn't come through for us. (3.) We feel like God has put us on a shelf because we've messed up too much. (4.) Unbelief – We don't think the Bible can really make a difference in our lives. (5.) We haven't been captivated by the Author. As our love for God grows, so will our hunger for His Word.

Practical Next Steps - Activate God's Word in your life:

1. Believe in the inherent power of God's Word. In battling satan, Jesus didn't perform a miracle or cast him out of the wilderness. He simply declared the Words of God that He knew and believed in.
2. Allow God's Word to define/validate you. Jesus had no void to fill and nothing to prove. (Luke 3:21-22)
3. Actually believe and receive God's Truth. satan wasn't afraid of God's Word. On one occasion, he chose to accurately quote Scripture to Jesus. satan only fears when we truly believe and activate it.
4. Put yourself into the scene and actually experience the Presence, Words, and Actions of Jesus.
5. Be filled with the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 5:18) Jesus was both filled with and led by the Spirit. He didn't attempt to face the enemy on His own and He never expects us to. We don't have what it takes.
6. *STOP Cards* – Identify an area of need. Write out verses that speak Truth into that area. Do what Jesus did to satan – STOP him with the Truth – Take every thought captive. (2 Cor. 10:5)
7. Every day learn something new from God's Word and look for opportunities to share that truth.
8. Come up with an effective plan for regularly studying God's Word. Attend the *Faith Chats* class next Sunday.

Bible Study Method

Three Step Method

1. Observation: What does the passage say?

- Begin with prayer. Ask God to reveal His truth as you study.
- Read through the passage (*sometimes it helps to read it out loud*).
- Ask the Who, What, When, Where, Why and How questions.
- Let the text speak for itself; do not read into it.

2. Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

- Context is king in interpretation.
- Who was the passage written to? Why? What is the historical and cultural context?
- Is the passage a historical narrative? Poetry? Prophecy? Other?
- Use Scripture to interpret Scripture!

3. Application: How does the passage apply to my life?

- How does the text challenge my life, my choices, my worldview?
- Identify specific commands to obey, sins to confess, examples to follow, promises to trust.
- Spend time talking with the Lord about the passage and your life.

Just as every tree has a story to tell, every generation, every church, every person, has a story to be told. It is a story of struggle and success, of hopes, fears, pain, and healing. It tells the story of the forces that have formed them and shaped them. And of what is at their very heart, holding them together.