

LOVE & GO THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

Mark 12:29–31 (NIV) ²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ **Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.**’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘**Love your neighbor as yourself.**’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 16:15–16 (NLT) ¹⁵ And then he told them, “**Go** into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. ¹⁶ Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.”

BIBLE TRUTH #1: The Bible is God’s Word. It is alive and powerful. Within it are powerful truths that can bless your life and set you free to be all that God created you to be.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NLT) ¹⁶ 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.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

John 14:6 (NLT) “I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

John 17:17 (NIV) “Sanctify them by the truth; **Your word is truth.**”

2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT) All scripture...is useful **to teach us what is true** and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives.

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT) 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 judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Luke 1:37 (ASV) For no word from God **shall be void of power**.

Jeremiah 1:12 (NIV) “I am watching to see that My word is fulfilled.”

1. ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN TO US IS HIS WORD.

2 Timothy 3:17 (NLT) God uses it (His Word) to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

2. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US THROUGH HIS WORD.

3. THE STRENGTH OF A BELIEVER'S LIFE IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE PLACE GOD'S WORD HOLDS IN THEIR LIFE.

Matthew 4:4 (NIV) Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

4. WE ARE SAVED BY GOD'S WORD.

1 Peter 1:23–24 (NKJV) Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...

Romans 1:16 (NIV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

5. WE DEVELOP FAITH IN GOD AS WE HEAR HIS WORD AND DISCOVER WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS PROMISED US.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

6. GOD'S WORD PRODUCES SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY

1 Peter 2:2 (NLT) Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk **so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation.** Cry out for this nourishment,

7. GOD'S WORD HAS THE POWER TO COMPLETELY TRANSFORM OUR LIVES.

Romans 12:2 (NLT) Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

8. GOD'S WORD GUIDES OUR LIVES.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV) Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

9. GOD'S WORD PROTECTS US FROM SPIRITUAL ATTACKS

Matthew 4:4 (NIV) Jesus answered, "It is written..."

Ephesians 6:17 (NKJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...

10. WE ARE HEALED AND DELIVERED BY GOD'S WORD.

Psalms 107:20 (ESV) He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.

11. WE ARE SET FREE BY GOD'S WORD.

John 8:31–32 (NIV) ³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

12. LIVING BY GOD'S WORD WILL CAUSE YOU TO PROSPER AND SUCCEED IN ALL OF LIFE.

Joshua 1:8 (NLT) Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

GOD'S WORD IS THE FOUNDATION WE ARE TO BUILD OUR LIVES UPON.

Luke 6:46–49 (NLT) ⁴⁶ "So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say? ⁴⁷ I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. ⁴⁸ It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. ⁴⁹ But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins."

HOW DO I BUILD MY LIFE ON GOD'S WORD?

James 1:19–25 (NIV) ¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should **be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry**, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and **humbly accept the word planted in you**, which can save you. ²² **Do not merely listen to the word**, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, **but doing it**—they will be blessed in what they do.

1. PREPARE YOUR HEART TO RECEIVE GOD'S WORD.

James 1:19–25 (NIV) ¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

Mark 4:13–20 (ESV) ¹³ And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴ The sower sows the word. ¹⁵ And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶ And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸ And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, ¹⁹ but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²⁰ But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

2. MAKE THE WORD FINAL AUTHORITY IN YOUR LIFE.

James 1:21 (NLT) Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent **and humbly accept the word planted in you**, which can save you.

3. APPLY GOD'S WORD TO YOUR LIFE—LIVE BY IT!

James 1:22 (NKJV) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

THE GREATEST THREAT TO SATAN AND HIS KINGDOM IS THE WORD OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER.