

# TITLE: **Core Value #4: GOD'S WORD**

SERIES: Core Values ( 5 of 7)

Text: Various

Balboa Community Church

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## Intro

### Series Review: Core Values.

1. Lost people matter to God. He wants them found.
2. Prayer is the primary work of God's people.
3. Everything we have belongs to God. We're His stewards.

And today - **Core Value #4: GOD'S WORD. Knowing and obeying God's Word is fundamental to all true success.**

The Bible is God's Word. The Creator of the Universe - the One who made us and everything on this planet - has spoken to us.

That's why we preach and teach the Word of God here at Balboa. The One who made us has laid out His expectations for us. We don't get to pick and choose what we think God said. We don't get to decide what we want to believe or not believe.

The Bible is God's Word - not ours.

## 5 Things About God's Word

- 1. God's Word is infallible.** There is no error in the Word of God as originally written. It is complete truth. No lie.
- 2. God's Word is complete.** It does not need any new chapters or verses. It does not need any additional books to be added to it.
- 3. God's Word is authoritative.** It's the only source for divine authority. It carries the full weight of Almighty God.
- 4. God's Word is sufficient.** We don't need anything else. It corrects, instructs, guides, equips - it reveals God's plan for our lives. It's ALL that we need.
- 5. God's Word will accomplish what it promises.** Everything it says will happen. Every promise is true.

## True Success Comes from God's Word

Our core value stresses that God's Word is fundamental to all true success. The perfect example of this is found in the life of Joshua.

God's people, the Israelites, have spent 40 years wandering around in a desert. The reason they did was because they didn't trust that God would do as He promised.

God said that He would give them a land that He had promised them. But when they got there, they were afraid - and they disobeyed.

Now they are about to enter the promised land a second time. This time led by Joshua. But before they cross the Jordan River to step foot on the land God promised them, God gives them some very pointed instructions - warnings, if you will.

**Joshua 1:7-9** - <sup>7</sup> Be strong and very courageous. **Be careful to obey** all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup> Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may **be careful to do** everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. <sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." NIV

God says, "You want to be successful? Then be sure to obey Me. Do everything exactly like I have instructed you. Don't veer to the right. Don't veer to the left. Don't take any detours. Be sure you follow my commands and then you will be successful."

As followers of Jesus, we have to always remind ourselves that success in life is not determined by how much money we have... or how good looking we are... or how much influence we can exert.

Success in life is determined by how closely we obey God's Word.

Some of us have found that out the hard way. We ignored what God said in His Word and thought success would come by doing what we wanted. In the end, after much heartbreak and disillusionment, we realized that God was right all along.

"Knowing and obeying God's Word is fundamental to all true success."

It's important to understand that "knowing God's Word" and "obeying God's Word" are 2 very different things.

First, it is important to know God's Word - to memorize it and to study it. But simply being able to recite a verse and explain what it means does not mean that your behavior has changed.

This past week we learned of a pastor in Carlsbad who was arrested on child molestation charges. Here was someone who not only knew the Word of God, but taught it to others. Yet, he failed to completely obey it.

That's why "knowing" and "obeying" go hand in hand. We must diligently seek to know God's Word - what His instructions and expectations are. But then we must follow those instructions by the way we live out God's Word in our lives.

Let me show you how this is done.

## 3 Steps to Successful Living

### 1. LEARN the Word

**Ps 119:11-12** - <sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. <sup>12</sup> I praise you, O Lord; teach me your decrees. NLT

Regular reading and memorizing God's Word is a necessity for a believer. That's how it becomes "hidden" or "stored up" in our hearts.

As a student, I went to school 22 years full-time, from 1<sup>st</sup> grade through grad school. I sat under a lot of teachers in that time. Some good. Some not so good.

Each one tried to pour their knowledge into me. Some took. A lot didn't.

But I have retained basic things, like arithmetic. I can still add, subtract, multiply and divide. The rules of English grammar - when to use "who" and "whom." Principles of writing. US & world history. Even state capitols.

Those basic things I learned in school are stored up inside me. (Trivia contest)

As a believer, I am to "store up" God's Word inside me. God's Word is my teacher. My instructor.

Any teacher will tell you you're not going to ace their class if you never crack a book. You have to read the assignments if you want to do well in their class.

However, many Christians try to live the Christian life without ever "cracking the Book." They're trying to "wing it" through life without knowing the instructions. Many are okay with getting their information 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> hand from speakers or other books.

True success in life begins with knowing God's Word. That's why it is so important for us to learn the Word - allow it to teach us.

## 2. LOVE the Word

**Psalm 1:1-2** - <sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. <sup>2</sup> But his **delight** is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. NIV

**Psalm 119:97** - Oh, how I **love** your law! I meditate on it all day long. NIV

I confess that there were classes that I took in school that I did not do well in. And today I don't remember much of what I learned. It might have been a bad teacher. Or it might be that the subject didn't interest me. But I didn't get much out of the class.

But there was one class in seminary that I absolutely devoured. The focus was on discovering and understanding "worship" in the Old Testament. Through word studies, examination of passages in First & Second Chronicles, intense discussions - I was enthralled.

I think it was a combination of the professor - someone I respected and admired; the subject matter which interested me; and the fact that class was often held at his house - in a solarium that he had built because he wanted to bring a part of California with him to the cold Minnesota winters.

Whatever it was - I remember vividly the things that I learned then and they still impact me today.

When you love the subject matter and the teacher, you find great delight in learning.

As believers, when you love your teacher - the Word of God,

and you love the subject matter - what God is saying to you, then you find great delight in the Lord.

When you love the Word of God, you can't wait to begin reading it again.

When you love the Word of God, time flies and you just can't seem to get enough.

If you don't have a genuine love of God's Word, then pray! Ask God to give you a hunger and thirst for His Word - to want to know Him through His Word.

A love for God and His Word frees you from the boring - liberates you from the mundane. It creates a hunger to know Him more.

That's when His Word becomes alive. Not just words on a page. But God Himself sharing His heart with you. Having a conversation with you.

## 3. LIVE the Word

**James 1:22** - But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. NLT

Reading and knowing God's Word is the easy part. Obeying God's Word is what is difficult. It will take the power of God's Spirit living in you to overcome the many temptations that you face. It will take the power of God Himself to help you live boldly and courageously like He wants you to live.

That means you have to submit to God's will for your life. It means you have to be humble when you read His Word. Otherwise, you'll find all kinds of excuses for not doing what He has commanded. The commands of the Lord are many. They include...

**1 John 2:15** - Do not love the world or anything in the world.

**Matt 6:33** - Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

**Matthew 28:19-20** - Go and make disciples of all nations.

**Luke 18:20** - You know the commandments: "Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother." NIV

**Col 3:2** - Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

**Col 3:5** - Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

**Col 3:17** - And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus. NIV

## Conclusion

"Knowing AND obeying God's Word is fundamental to all true success."

When we stray from God's Word, we are not living in fellowship with Him. His power is not manifested in our lives. Our faith is weak, and God cannot use us.

But when we LEARN God's Word, LOVE God's Word, and LIVE God's Word - we will experience the power of God in our lives. And that is successful living!