

Building the *CORE* Series
The Word of God: Our *CORE* Authority
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Pastor John Lloyd

Our physical bodies are made up of several core muscles which keep our bodies functioning properly if we keep them exercised and in shape. Our spiritual walk also has several *CORE* beliefs we need to exercise in order to glorify God. During this sermon series, the *CORE* beliefs we will focus on are the Word of God, the existence of God, how we are saved, set apart and glorified, the Trinity, and Jesus Christ as prophet, priest and king. It is our hope that God will use this series to strengthen us individually and as a church. Today, we will study the Word of God and its rightful place in our lives.

“The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God’s words in such a way that to disbelieve any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.” Wayne Grudem

Why should the Word of God be our *CORE* Authority?

I. Our world desperately needs the _____ of Scripture.

Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

Jeremiah 8:9 The wise will be put to shame; they will be dismayed and trapped. Since they have rejected the word of the LORD, what kind of wisdom do they have?

2Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Proverbs 30:12 those who are pure in their own eyes and yet are not cleansed of their filth;

Judges 17:6 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.

II. The Word of God was _____ to be our CORE authority.

A. It is God _____.

Theopneustos – breathed out by God

2Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

B. The Word claims a special _____.

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

John 6:63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

1 Corinthians 2:13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. 14 The man without the Spirit

does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

“We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the Church to an high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scripture. And the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is, to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man’s salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God: yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word of God to our hearts. (Westminster confession of faith chapter 1, paragraph 5).

Luke 11:28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Psalm 119:9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

Psalm 138:2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

C. God’s Word is the ultimate standard of _____.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Psalm 119:151 Yet you are near, O LORD, and all your commands are true.

Ephesians 6:17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

D. God's Word is _____.

Isaiah 40:8 "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."

Matthew 5:18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Psalms 119:89 Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

E. The Word _____ the love of Jesus Christ to us.

John 14:10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

Luke 24:44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

I love the Bible the way I love my eyes—not because my eyes are lovely, but because without them I can't see what's lovely. Without the Bible I could not see “the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.” Without the Bible I could not know “the unsearchable riches of Christ.” Without the Bible I would not know that I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Savior. I love the Bible because it gives the wisdom that leads to salvation, and shows me that this salvation is nothing less than seeing and savoring the glory of Christ forever, and then provides for me inexhaustible ways of seeing and knowing and enjoying Christ. John Piper
24,000 manuscript evidence of portions of the New Testament

To give a comparison the Illiad written by Homer is second with only 643 manuscripts. The first complete text of Homer is from 13th century. The earliest parts of Homer's Illiad has a five hundred year span. The difference in time with the Scriptures is only 25 years.

Sometimes it easier to understand the concept of inspiration when it is compared with revelation. Revelation relates to the actual giving and origin of the truth, (I Corinthians 2:10). Inspiration on the other hand, relates to the receiving and actual recording of truth. Inspiration means that that “God the Holy Spirit worked in such a supernatural way so that the written words of the writers were also the words of God.” (McDowell, A Ready Defense, p.174).

Resources to Study:

Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology. Read pages 73-90. Josh McDowell, Evidence that Demands a Verdict, pages 39-49, “The Reliability of the Bible”. Tim Keller, The Reasons for God, “ You Can't take the Bible literally” p.97. David A. Noebel, The Battle for the Truth, “The Battle for Hearts and Minds, p.3-11).