

The **G.O.S.P.E.L.** Rule of Life  
(Trellis for Fruit Bearing)



**Fruitfulness and God's Word:**

**Psalm 1:1-3:** Blessed is the man...his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

**Being in God's Word for 2026**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**If we are honest...**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

3 Reasons Why We Struggle to Listen to God's Word:

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Reason 1: You might be approaching Scripture as static and impersonal.

Verse 16: "All Scripture is breathed out by God..."

Martin Luther: *"The Word of God is alive, it speaks to me. It has feet, it runs after me. It has hands, it lays hold of me!"*

Thoughts:

1. If the Word feels distant and stale, it could be that you're treating it as information and not communion.

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1. If the Word feels distant and stale, it could be that you're treating it as information and not communion.

2. (For those who struggle with guilt and the grind)  
When you open Scripture, God's not evaluating your devotion but He's inviting you into his presence.

John Eldridge:

- The Shallows
- The Midlands
- The Depths

The Shallows



The Midlands



The Depths



3 Reasons Why We Struggle to Listen to God's Word:

Reason 2: When we hear how Scripture is "profitable", our heart idols push back.

Verse 16: "...profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness..."

Our Heart Idols:

**Pride:** When it comes to "teaching", *I already know*

**Approval:** When it comes to "reproof and correction," *I don't want to be corrected*

**Comfort:** When it comes to "training in righteousness", *I want to be comfortable and avoid discomfort*

**The Idol of Pride: "I already know"**

**The False Promise/False Gospel:** "If I just know enough, I'll be secure and superior. I am justified in knowing enough and being right."

**Result of this idol:** We become smug, argumentative, unteachable.

**True Gospel in Christ:** "I am justified by grace; knowledge is a servant of love, not a substitute for it." (1 Cor 8:1; Jer 9:23-24).

**When the Gospel Dethrones Pride:** humble learner, receptive hearts

**The Idol of Approval: "I don't want to be rejected"**

**The False Promise/False Gospel:** "God approves of me as long as I am good. My life has meaning if everyone thinks highly of me, including God."

**Result of this Idol:** Fear of correction, avoidance; cannot receive feedback or criticism.

**True Gospel in Christ:** "You are loved and accepted fully and perfectly in Christ!" (Mark 1:11; Eph 1:6)

**When the Gospel Dethrones Approval:** Reproof and Correction leads to joyful gospel renewal

**The Idol of Comfort: "I don't want discomfort"**

**The False Promise/False Gospel:** "Suffering is the greatest enemy. If God loves me, I should not be suffering."

**Result of this Idol:** "Risk vs Rust"; unable to love well, the comfort we seek is elusive or fleeting; lack spiritual resilience

**True Gospel in Christ:** Jesus as a Suffering Savior; costly love; comfort not the goal but a gift (God's presence!) that comes through suffering and hardship (2 Cor 1)

**When the Gospel Dethrones Comfort:** Endure hardship with hope, embrace sacrificial love, gospel grit

**3 Reasons Why We Struggle to Listen to God's Word:**

**Reason 3: We have forgotten how crucial and comprehensive God's word is for our spiritual equipping and living.**

Verse 17: "that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

"equipped" - to provide you with what you need for a particular purpose.

"every good work" - godly living for every situation and sphere of life!

How God's Word equips us for every good work:

It is a...

Sword that pierces (Hebrews 4:12-13)



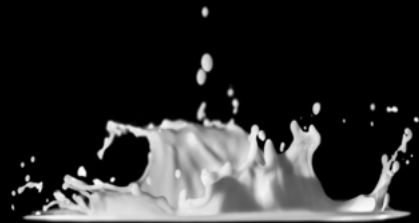
Mirror that reveals (James 1:23)



Seed that grows (1 Peter 1:23)



Milk that nourishes (1 Peter 2:2)



Lamp that shines (Psalm 119:105)



Hammer that shatters (Jeremiah 23:29)



Honey that is sweet (Psalm 19:10)



- Sword that pierces (Hebrews 4:12-13)
- Mirror that reveals (James 1:23)
- Seed that grows (1 Peter 1:23)
- Milk that nourishes (1 Peter 2:2)
- Lamp that shines (Psalm 119:105)
- Hammer that shatters (Jeremiah 23:29)
- Honey that is sweet (Psalm 19:10)

## Practical Thoughts on Listening to God's Word

### 1. Remember to LISTEN to God's Word

Romans 10:17

Mark 4:9

John 10:27

Often, we struggle to hear from God not because he is silent but we are not paying attention.



2. While it's great to have someone "serve you a meal" (God's word) to eat, learn to "meal prep on your own" (God's word). And, enjoy the meal - don't gulp and rush, but chew and enjoy.

Wendy Speake: *"Don't simply read your Bible to get to heaven tomorrow; allow the Word to bring a taste of heaven into your life today... We gobble up His presence and gobble up His Word as if we're in a rush. Brushing the crumbs from our lap, we stand up and move on with more indigestion than transformation and wonder why we don't look more like Him. One pastor put it this way, "Reading the Bible without meditating on it is like eating without chewing."*

3. Choose a Plan for reading the Bible, and don't go at it alone.

An inspirational moment usually doesn't go far.

*"If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together."* - African Proverb

4. In response to the gospel, commit to growing in your understanding of Scripture.

Push back against spiritual comfort. Grow and challenge yourself to do a deeper dive into a portion of Scripture.

5. As you engage God's Word, remember the Word Incarnate who came into this world, not to burden you with another checklist, but to love you and give you life!