



What is the **G.O.S.P.E.L.** Rule of Life?

The **G.O.S.P.E.L.** acronym reminds us that we are to always remember and rejoice in the gospel as we:

- G - Give Blessing
- O - Open in Community
- S - Sabbath
- P - Pray
- E - Engage in God's Mission
- L - Listen to God's Word

(L)isten: The Practice of Being Formed and Shaped by God's Word

Our Culture's Rule of Life: The Practice of being formed and shaped by your heart's desires

What The Gospel Brings About: The Gospel deeply forms us through God's word, enabling us to hold fast through life's challenges and sorrows and giving us wisdom through life's uncertainties.

(L)isten: The Practice of Being Formed and Shaped by God's Word

1. The Significance of God's Word
2. Key Lesson
3. Ideas for Listening
4. The Practice of Listening to God's Word

(L)isten: The Practice of Being Formed and Shaped by God's Word

1. The Significance of God's Word

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.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God" (cf. Genesis 2:7, John 20:22)

Breathed out:

1. God's word is alive, not a static set of teaching.

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!"*

Breathed out:

2. Since all Scripture comes from the mouth of God, it has full authority and power. Scripture is the very speech of God.

Tim Keller: *"Contemporary people tend to examine the Bible, looking for things they can't accept; but Christians should reverse that, allowing the Bible to examine us, looking for things God cannot accept."*

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

Teaching, correction and training are necessary because followers of Jesus have gospel amnesia and we forget our identity in Christ, turn to idols and live for self instead of God.

"...that the man of God made be complete, equipped for every good work."

God's Word:

- 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)

(L)isten: The Practice of Being Formed and Shaped by God's Word

1. The Significance of God's Word
2. Key Lesson

Key Lesson:

Listen daily to how **God's Story** forms yours through the regular intake of God's word.

1. Everyone loves a good story.

Think of a favorite movie, show, or book. What was it about the story that you found it to be so meaningful and impactful for you?

2. Everyone has a "grand story" to make sense of their lives.

The Levels of our Being (John Eldridge):

- 1) Shallows: You have fleeting thoughts throughout the day, most of which are insignificant.
- 2) Midlands: You also have longings, hopes, and dreams that are far more important.
- 3) Depths: Deep within you, you have experienced the cry for love, hope, and joy, which feels almost primal to your being.

Michael Goheen: *"The question is not whether the whole of our lives will be shaped by some grand story. The only question is which grand story will shape our lives. For the one who has heard Jesus' call to follow him, the call comes with a summons to enter the story of which he was the climactic moment – the story narrated in the Bible. It is an invitation to find our place in that story."*



Reframing the Key Lesson:

Listen daily to how **God's Story** forms yours through the regular intake of God's word.

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3. Ideas for Listening

Ideas for Listening

1. Remember to **listen** to God's Word.

With Christianity, it matters how you listen (hear)!

Romans 10:17: So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Mark 4:9 (Parable of the Sower): And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

John 10:27: (Jesus said) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

How are you hearing today?

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



Dallas Willard: "God will not play little games of hide-and-seek with us... In our relationship with him there is no mysterious catch to receiving his word for us, no riddle to solve, no incantation to get just right."

Dallas Willard: "Some use their ears to sift out only what they want to hear... We will be spiritually safe in our use of the Bible if we follow a simple rule: Read with a submissive attitude. Read with a readiness to surrender all you are — all your plans, opinions, possessions, positions. Study as intelligently as possible, with all available means, but never study merely to find the truth and especially not just to prove something."

Ideas for Listening

1. Remember to listen to God's Word.
2. Be **creative** and **flexible** in how you listen to God's Word.

What are the ways you engage and listen to God's Word?

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a. Songs, Sermons, Studies

b. While it's great to have someone provide you a "drink", go to the well on your own to "drink" from God's word.

Ideas for Listening

1. Remember to listen to God's Word.
2. Be creative and flexible in how you listen to God's Word.
3. Choose a **Plan** for reading the Bible.

Why a Plan?

1. "A plan helps development gospel habits."
2. Builds a foundation
3. Practical thoughts

Ideas for Listening

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3. Choose a Plan for reading the Bible
4. **Don't go at it alone.**

Ideas for Listening

1. Remember to listen to God's Word.
2. Be creative and flexible in how you listen to God's Word.
3. Choose a Plan for reading the Bible
4. Don't go at it alone.
5. Commit to **growing** in your understanding of Scripture.

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

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The Practice of Listening to God's Word

1. **Scripture before Phone** as you start your day.

Justin Early: "As you start your day, the key question should not be 'What do I need to do today?' Rather, the key questions ought to be, 'Who am I?' and 'What kind of person am I becoming?'"

Over the course of many months, my head was asking my phone a very practical question: 'What do I need to do today?' But in the same moments, under the radar, my heart was asking my phone a much more profound question: 'Who do I need to become today?'

Once you know that you are in God, you can turn to the world in love.

But if you don't, you'll turn to the world looking for love.

So much of our identity hinges on this ordering."

- Justin Earley

The Practice of Listening to God's Word

1. **Scripture before Phone** as you start your day.
2. Scripture and Prayer as **meditation**.

Wrapping Up Our Series

Putting It All Together:

The G.O.S.P.E.L. Rule of Life Considerations

Take some time to fill out your G.O.S.P.E.L.
Rule of Life

1. The GOSPEL Rule of Life as fruitful living

The GOSPEL Rule of Life is not: *"Sigh, I'm already so busy and overwhelmed, I don't have time for the GOSPEL Rule of Life."*

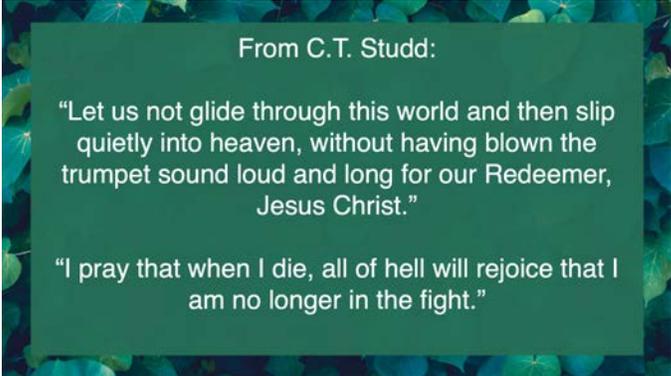
Rather:

The GOSPEL Rule of Life is: *"Because I am so busy and distracted, I long to be rooted and need to be grounded in the gospel and Jesus' love for me."*



1. The GOSPEL Rule of Life as fruitful living

2. The GOSPEL Rule of Life as fight.



From C.T. Studd:

“Let us not glide through this world and then slip quietly into heaven, without having blown the trumpet sound loud and long for our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.”

“I pray that when I die, all of hell will rejoice that I am no longer in the fight.”