



Sermon Series: First and Foremost
Part Three: Protection and Health
Ephesians 6:17
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Objective Sentence: Everyone should make the Study of God's Word a first priority because of the promises God made within the pages of the Bible .

Introduction: Bob Buchannon: There's no way around it, the faith of a **follower of Jesus stands or falls** on two things—on the inspiration of Scripture and on the deity of Jesus Christ. If either of these are false—if the Bible is not God's eternal Word, or if Christ is not God's Son—Christianity is false. It is bound to crumble and fall. If these two things are true, however, it will stand forever, regardless of how many skeptics, atheists, or infidels attack it.

- #1. **God's Word is Everything** (*Author Unknown: As is your desire, so is your will. As is your will, so is your deed. As is your deed, so is your destiny.*)
 - A. **T.L. Osborn: The Bible, God's Word, speaks to us as Jesus would if He were visibly present with us. It takes His place. It has the same authority as He would have if He were to appear before us. The Word of God is like its Author—eternal, unchanging and living. The Word is the Mind of God and the Will of God; It is a part of God Himself. It abides forever. If I want to know Him more and know more about Him, I learn more of His Word. I hold God's word in my hand, I have it in my heart and I speak it with my lips. The Word is my healing and my strength.**
1. **God's Word is a weapon through which I overcome adversity**
 - a. **Jack Hayford:** All of us are too inexperienced to try to make it through life without a guide. God's Word is that guide. (**Psalm 119:11**)
 - b. **Ephesians 6:10-18 NKJV** Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might ... ¹⁶ taking the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the **fiery darts** of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,** ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere

- c. **Proverbs 30:5** Every Word of God is pure and He is a shield to them who put their trust in Him. **Psalms 84:11** For the Lord God is my **light and protection**; He will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk upright.
- d. **Matthew 7:24-27** Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵and the **rain descended**, the **floods came**, and the **winds blew** and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.
- e. **Jesus said (John 6:63)**, “The words that I speak to you are spirit and life.” *E. Stanley Jones:* God’s words become Spirit and Life to us as Jesus re-speaks them into our circumstances which cause us to seek His direction.
- f. **Psalms 119:165** Great peace have they which **love your law**: and **nothing shall offend them** [or cause them to stumble].
- g. **Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 7** Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today ... ⁷ The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.
- h. **John 8:31-32** If you continue in my Word then you are disciples indeed and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.

2. God’s Word is health and healing to my flesh

- a. **Exodus 15:26 NKJV** If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, **give ear to His commandments** and **keep all His statutes**, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. **For I am the Lord your God who heals you.** **Exodus 23:25 NLT** You must serve only the Lord your God and if you do, I will bless you with food and water, and I will protect you from illness.
- b. **Proverbs 4:20-22 NKJV** My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; ²²For they *are* life to those who find them, and **health** to all their flesh. ²³Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the issues of life.
- c. **Psalms 107:19-20 NKJV** They cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. **He sent His word [JESUS] and healed them** and delivered them from their destructions.
- d. *Pastor Dan:* What food is to our spiritual being, so the Word of God is to our spiritual being. In order to maintain spiritual health, it is important that we eat a balanced diet of the God’s Word and get spiritual exercise by putting it to practice.
- e. *T.L. Osborn:* **Faith is as much about what one does as it is about what one believes.** A true believer is more than someone who **agrees with the Word**; it is all about someone who **acts on the word**. Faith is expecting God to do what He promised.
- f. **1 Peter 2:24** Jesus Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree that we being dead to sin might live unto righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed.
- g. **Isaiah 53:4-6** Surely, He has born our griefs and carried our sorrows but we did esteem Him stricken and smitten of God but He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities and by whose stripes we are healed.

Closing and Invitation: Pastor Dan: God is not the cause of human ill, He is the cure. *T.L. Osborn:* Both sin and sickness came into the world through the fall of mankind. Therefore, we must **look for the healing of both** in the Savior of the human race. **THE BEST QUESTION IS NOT WHY BUT WHAT NOW.**

God is as willing to heal believers as He is to forgive unbelievers. Know this, if He was merciful enough to forgive you when you were unconverted, He is merciful enough to heal you now that you are in His family! *Eerdman:* Every changing scene of life is depicted for us in the Bible. Whatever our circumstances may be, we can get some guidance, help and comfort from that treasure house of wisdom and experience.