

# The Christian Arsenal

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## BUILDING YOUR LIFE ON A SOLID FOUNDATION Essentials for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Living Dr. Ken Culver

### Part 5 of 9

**INTRO:** I not only need people I can count on, but I need truth that I can stand on.

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right.” 2 Tim. 3:16 (LB)

How do I know the Bible is true?

- The evidence of history

The Bible has got real people and real places and real things that really happened.

- The evidence of consistency throughout the Bible

When you pick up the Bible you're looking at a book that was written over about a 1500 year span by almost 40 different authors.

- The evidence of changed lives

The question is: So what if it is true? What does that mean to my life?

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” Matt. 7:24 (NIV)

How do I build on the truth?

#### 1. YOU'VE GOT TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

“So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.”

Rom. 10:17 (NKJV)

The problem: We forget 95 % of what we hear after 72 hours.

#### II. I NEED TO READ GOD'S WORD

Statistics across the U.S.:

1. 91% own a Bible
2. There are an average of 3 Bibles in our homes.
3. 80% of the people say that they believe the Bible is the most important book ever written.
4. 58% of Americans say they think everything in the Bible is true

“Happy is the one who reads the words of God's message ...” Rev. 1:3 (NCV)

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“(The Scriptures) shall be his constant companion. **He must read from it every day of his life** so that he will learn to respect the Lord his God by obeying all of His commands.” Deut. 17:19 (LB)

Two suggestions about reading the Bible:

1. Read it in a translation that you can understand.
2. Read the Bible systematically.

There are 31,101 verses in the Bible. If each verse in the bible were a step then reading through the Bible would cover about 17.5 miles

### III. YOU STUDY GOD’S WORD

What’s the difference between reading the Bible and studying?  
The difference is you take notes when you study.

“... They accepted the message eagerly and **studied the Scriptures** every day ...” Acts 17:11 (Ph)

“Know what His Word says and means.” 2 Tim. 2:15 (TLB)

### IV. I MEMORIZE GOD’S WORD

We memorize what is important to us.

“Guard My words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart.” Pr. 7:2-3 (TLB)

“I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You.” Ps 119:11 (NIV)

A few tips about memorizing:

1. Always pick a verse to memorize that means something to you.
2. Decide when you’re going to memorize.

### V. MEDITATE ON GOD’S WORD

1. The Bible’s idea about meditation is focusing your mind on a Bible verse so you can see how the truth fits in your life.

2. Ask the questions:

1. How does that truth fit into the way I talk with my kids?
2. How does that truth fit in the way I’m managing my business?

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3. How does that truth fit in the kind of attitudes I have today?

“They love the Lord’s teachings, and they think about those teachings day and night. They are strong, like a tree planted by a river ... everything they do will succeed.” Ps. 1:2-3 (NCV)

“ ... Your life is shaped by your thoughts.” Prov. 4:23 (GN)  
What I’m thinking about today is what I’m going to become tomorrow.

“ ... Meditate on (the Word) day and night, so you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:8 (NIV)

## VI. DO GOD’S WORD

“Do not fool yourselves by just listening to the Word. Instead, put it into practice.” James 1:22 (NIV)

The value of doing His Word is that it builds a foundation that lasts for the rest of your life.

“ ... Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven” Matt. 5:19 (NIV)

“Now that you know these things – **do them!** That is the path of blessing!” John 13:17(LB)