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God's Word Series **The String of a Yo-Yo**

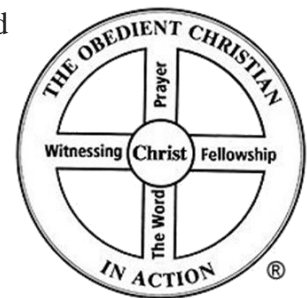
How can I survive a Yo-Yo life?

1. Make God's Word My Sole Solid Foundation.

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

All of our spiritual practices are founded on God's Word.

Matthew 7:24-25 - ²⁴“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been **founded on the rock**.



2. Know that God's Word is Always Working

Hebrews 4:11-12

The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any two-edged sword, it penetrates to dividing the soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it **judges the thoughts and attitudes** of the heart.

When you know God's Word is always working, you

- look for how God's Word is working;
- look for what God wants to teach you and change in you;

Proverbs 4:11-12 – Hold on to instruction, do not let it go. Guard it well, for it is your life.

Ecclesiastes 12:11 - The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd.

3. Trust that God's Word will Not Fail Me.

Proverbs 30:5 – Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to those to take refuge in him.

Psalms 138:2

“... you have exalted above all things your name and your word.”

2022 - Focus on God's Word.

Bible Reading Challenge (encouragement)

Read 1 chapter a day.

New believer, start with **John**, then **1 John**.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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

What will I do?...

- **Biblical Interpretation.**
- **Foundational topics.**
- **Provide Worship Service time to Memorize scripture.**

<p><i>What do we do in 2022?</i> <i>Focus on something more reliable than you!</i></p>
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God's Word Series
The String of a Yo-Yo
Opening

Story: YoYo

What keeps the Yo-Yo from flying off?

(Pray)

Transition

Notes, handouts

Last Sunday:

- we are all good.
- In this world we are not safe, but in the Lord we are.

Body

Weird things in my life in the last year:

2021 – what a year!

- Mind went blank (preaching). Endocrinologist, changes.
- Stave off dementia - learn and instrument or language.
- Singing voice
- elliptical and shoulder and joints
- Tooth cracked off (Pic)
- River around my house. (Video)
- Covid, Delta, Omicron → served to bring us to the Word

“Yo-Yo.”

How can I survive a Yo-Yo life?

1. Make God's Word is My Sole Solid Foundation.

Not one of many, but our ONLY Solid Foundation.

On a Yo-Yo there is only one string. (God's Word)

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

Nothing Compares to God's word and reliability. Heaven and Earth will pass away but his word will never pass away.

All of our **spiritual practices** are founded on God's word.

All these practices are essential, but only one is the foundation for the rest. God's Word.

Matthew 7:24-25 - ²⁴“Everyone then who **hears** these words of mine and **does** them will be like a wise man who **built his house on the rock**. ²⁵And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been **founded on the rock**.”

How important is the Word of God in the scope of our spiritual practices?

Wheel Illustration.

(**Project**)



Your **prayer** life and come and go, vacillate, yoyo, depend on how you feel at the moment. But God's Word will not change. your **fellowship** can vacillate, yoyo, with how you feel, but God's Word will not change. Your **witnessing** and evangelism and sharing the gospel varies with how you feel, vacillate and yoyo, comes and goes with opportunities presented you, but God's Word is unwavering.

We can't stop the Yo-Yos in life. But we can make our life is **firmly tethered** to God's hand by God's Word.

Unlike the string on a Yo-Yo, God's Word won't wear out, and it will never fail you.

2. Know that God's Word is Always Working

Even when you aren't consciously thinking about God's Word, His Word is still working!

Hebrews 4:11-12

The word of God is **living and active**. Sharper than any two-edged sword, it penetrates to dividing the soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it **judges the thoughts and attitudes** of the heart.

When you know God's Word is Always working, you

- Look for how God's Word is working;

- Look for what God wants to teach you and change in you;

God's Word works by providing **ongoing instruction**.

Proverbs 4:11-12 – Hold on to instruction, do not let it go. Guard it well, for it is your life.

Ecclesiastes 12:11 - The words of the wise are like **goads**, their collected sayings like **firmly embedded nails**—given by one shepherd.

You remember lots of the instructions your parents gave you. I constantly think about my dad's instructions about washing the dishes; my mother's instructions about washing the clothes. Likewise I remember God's instructions – if I make effort to listen to His Word.

God's Word works by informing our **conscience**.

Our conscience is a reservoir of how we are taught about right and wrong.

But our conscience is not necessarily taught by God's Word.

Our conscience needs ***guidance*** and **correction** through God's Word.

For example: we all know many who have same-sex attractions. Some have consciences that are taught only by society's shifting standards, and act on their drives without their consciences bothering them.

There are many others with same-sex attractions who do not act out on their drives because God's Word informed their

consciences, and they desire to please God above pleasing themselves.

They hear the words of Jesus to deny themselves (not give in to drives and impulses), take up their cross daily (day-by-day, hour-by-hour, today, tomorrow, and the day after that), and follow Jesus.

God's Word is working in their hearts and minds.

God's Word was working in me when, as a brand new believer, it convicted me of theft, lies, drinking, reckless driving.

God's Word *still* works in me, and convicts me of sin I commit. It brings me to repentance and washing.

3. Trust that God's Word will Not Fail You.

Proverbs 30:5 – Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to those to take refuge in him.

God gave us His Word, for our benefit, security, refuge.

Your faith will be put to the test. That's guaranteed.

You will ask yourself questions like these...

- Should I hide my sin, or trust God's Word and confess?
- Should I trust my loved one's will always be there,
or trust God's Word for my every need?
- Why did this happen, God. Are you there?

God's Word will not fail you in a Yo-Yo life, *but* ...
you can fail to obey and trust God's Word.

Heb 1:3 – God sustains *all things* by his powerful *Word*.

- If God can sustain all things, He can sustain you!
- This world is not safe.
- I said that Amy and I feel we are safe. There is actually no such thing as safe.
- But ... He sustains you with His powerful word!

In my short life I have never seen a time when God's Word needed to become more front and center as today.

Psalm 138:2

“... you have *exalted above all things* your name and your word.”

If *God Himself* exalts His Word above all things, shouldn't we?

Sadly, many people in the church at large, have exalted *people* above God's Word.

Many people's faith are founded on personality, and when the person falls, their whole faith falls.

Tragic Examples: Ministries where the impact matched their personalities,

But tragically, their ministries were bigger than their character.

Lots of time in the past couple of years listening to podcasts that mourned and analyzed the ministries of big-name people.

Very sad and tragic to see how Christianity in recent decades put **popularity** on the pedestal, making **personality** their foundation. When that foundation failed, their faith failed.

Joshua Gilmore -

I grew up in an “uncool church.” The sermons were not slick. The music was not modern. And the church’s position on societal issues certainly was not politically correct. But back then, churches like this were totally OK.

The church I grew up in was not ashamed of being counter-cultural. In fact, they celebrated their moral distinctions in contrast to the world’s ideas week in and week out.

By and large, the aim of the church I grew up in was not to please pop culture; but the aim was to please God. Did my childhood church have issues? Absolutely! But conforming for the sake of “cool” was not one of them.

In recent years many “cool Christians” have publicly fallen. Sadly, these evangelical influencers disappeared from the world of Christian celebrity for any number of scandalous reasons. Some publicly deconstructed their Christian faith on social media and ultimately renounced their faith altogether, while others tragically left their spouses and families via extramarital relations.

Some were fired for prolonged verbal abuse and lying, while others were heartbreakingly discovered to have maintained a double life marked by criminal sexual deviance. Whatever the reason for their departure from the limelight of the evangelical stage, these former “Christian celebrities” all had one thing in common — they were once very popular.

Some were New York Times bestselling authors. Some filled arenas with their popular Christian music. Some were pastors whose sermons were broadcast across the globe. Some even served in Christian higher education! Today, their names are no longer mentioned among Christians except when expressed as a historical cautionary tale.

I receive no pleasure in recounting some of the ways prominent Christian leaders have fallen in recent years. Researching this topic has been gut-wrenching. Nevertheless, I was pleased to discover that Christ Himself speaks directly to the issue of “pop Christianity” in [Luke 6:26](#). Jesus said, “*What sorrow awaits you who are praised by the crowds, for their ancestors also praised*

false prophets.” Jesus Christ, the founder of the Christian church, specifically warns his followers about being “*praised by the crowds.*” Let that sink in.

In a world where some Christian organizational heads utilize “crowdsourcing platforms” and “crowd management systems,” Jesus warned his followers of “what sorrow awaits” those who are praised by the crowds. Maybe, in view of Christ’s teaching, the crowds aren’t to be “sourced” or “managed.” Maybe they are to be “cautioned.”

In my mind, I can hear the critic saying, “who does this writer think he is? Is he not trying to build a following, an audience, a crowd, in the publishing of this article? How dare he broad-brush Jesus’ teaching on popularity in this way.” I fully realize that the critics of this article might be right. I may be overstating my case.

However, I believe that today’s “pop Christianity,” with some of its trendy teachings and worldly practices, ought to be further examined in view of Jesus’ life and teaching as these “famous” Christians’ ministerial contributions might be more in line with the “false prophets” of old, just as Jesus warned.

The fact of the matter is, the American church is changing. While at a conference just a few days ago, I watched a speaker look squarely at a group of young music ministers and say, “*the most dangerous aspect of being a worship leader in today’s day and age is that so many Christians think it’s cool.*” A humbled group of church planters on a podcast I listened to recently candidly admitted to falling prey to the Christian hipster hype of the early 2000s.

A Christian Camp director I spoke to last month privately told me that they were now less impressed by the big and flashy conference speakers these days, and that they were now less likely to bring them in than they once were pre-pandemic.

https://www.christianpost.com/voices/pop-christianity-is-on-life-support.html?uid=06ce8634a7&utm_source=The+Christian+Post+List&utm_campaign=CP-Newsletter&utm_medium=email

God will not share His glory with another! (Is. 42:8)

If there ever was a time to

- make **God’s Word** our Sole and Solid Foundation, it is **now**.
- trust God’s Word to Always Work in us, it is **now**.
- realize that God’s Word will not fail you, it is **now**!

God's Word is the ultimate security, the ultimate certainty, the ultimate stability in our Yo-Yo world .

(Band)

2022 - Focus on God's Word.

Bible Reading Challenge (encouragement)

Read 1 chapter a day. Doesn't matter where you start.

New believer, start with **John**, then **1 John**. (Heart of God)

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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

What will I do?...

→ **Biblical Interpretation.**

I want you to be able to understand what you're reading!

→ **Foundational topics.**

I want you to know key themes.

→ Provide some time in the service to **memorize scripture**.

I want you to be equipped and effective for

A top marathon runner said, Run the mile you're in. Break it down.

Sinch by the inch, hard by the yard.

We will do this one step at a time.

What do we do in 2022?

Focus on something more reliable than you!