

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12

"My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

Isaiah 55:11

I. Two Foundational Truths

A. Trust in God's Word

1. "Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them."

Joshua 1:6

B. Obey God's Word

1. "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go."

Joshua 1:7

II. Keys to Release the Power of God's Word

A. Need to Speak it

1. "This Book of the Law shall not depart (forgotten) from your mouth."
Joshua 1:8a
2. "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."
Proverbs 18:21

B. Meditate on it

1. "but you shall meditate in it..."
Joshua 1:8b
2. Hebrew word: **הגה** "hagah"
 - a) "murmur, ponder, imagine, mutter, speak, study, talk, or utter"
 - b) First character: **ה** means: "look, to behold, to reveal or experience"
 - c) Middle character: **ג** means: "to chew on, or the moving of the mouth" as in the word: **ruminant**
3. **Ruminate**: means "to think deeply about something; to go over in the mind repeatedly and often casually or slowly".
4. Constantly: **"day and night"**.

5. **Caution about Priorities:** Beware of Life's Busyness...

- a) Worship precedes service: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."
Luke 4:8
- b) Not Visa Versa: "For he served Baal, and worshipped him."
1 Kings 22:53

C. Obey what God's Word says.. i.e. Apply it to your life.

- 1. "that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it."
Joshua 1:8c

D. Results

- 1. "For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."
Joshua 1:8d
- 2. Not success as today's world views it, but you will exhibit prudence.
 - a) the ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason
 - b) skill and good judgment in the use of resources
 - c) <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prudence>

E. Speaker's Testimony

- 1. Guiding verse: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Acts 16:31
- 2. Obedience to God's Word
 - a) "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols."
Acts 15:28-29
 - b) "Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons."
1 Corinthians 10:20-21
 - c) Speaker obeyed, refused to eat food his family offered to idols.
 - d) Eventually, over many years, God lead his parents and in-laws and other relatives to Christ.