

# APPLYING GOD'S WORD TO MY LIFE SO IT "STICKS"

Part 8 of 8

Psalm 119:20 – *“What I want most of all and at all times is to honor your laws.”*  
(Contemporary English)

## SIX WAYS TO MAKE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES “STICK”

### 1. BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES MUST BE MAINTAINED AT THE CORE OF MY LIFE

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

*Unreliable Elements...*

[1] *Popular culture*

Exodus 23:2 – *“Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong.”* (NIV)

[2] *Feelings and emotions*

Proverbs 16:25 – *“Some people think they are doing right, but in the end it leads to death.”* (New Century)

### 2. STUDY AND APPLY GOD'S WORD FOR PERSONAL INNER STRENGTH

[PICTURE #1 – Bible]

Colossians 3:16a – *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”* (NIV)

Feeding ourselves with God's Word...

[1] Receive it with my ears (listen).

[2] Read it with my eyes.

[3] Research it with my hands & mouth (study).

[4] Reflect on it with my mind.

[5] Remember it in my heart.

### 3. MAKE THE BIBLE THE MORAL STANDARD FOR MY LIFE

Psalm 1:1-2 – *“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked ...on his law he meditates day and night.”* (NIV)

Dr. Jeremy Osborn, assistant professor of communication at Albion College, Michigan (2012): *“In this study I found that people who believe the unrealistic portrayals on TV are actually less committed to their spouses and think their alternatives to their spouse are relatively attractive. ...it turns out that people are warping their expectations with their real-life partners because of what they’re seeing on TV.”*

What God’s Word does for me:

- \*Gives me *hope* when I’m in a crisis
- \**Comfort* when I’m in despair,
- \**Strength* when I’m weak,
- \**Wisdom* when I’m confused
- \**Guidance* when I’m looking for direction
- \**Strength* to resist temptation
- \**Eternal life* in heaven

Psalm 119:11 – *“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”* (NIV)

#### 4. MAKE GOD’S WORD THE BASIS FOR MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Psalm 119:18 – *“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.”* (NIV)

Parable of the Soils  
(Luke 8:4-15)

[1] The hardened soil represents a closed mind.

Action Step – Cultivate an open mind

[2] The shallow soil represents a superficial mind.

Action Step – Take time for God’s Word

[3] The soil with weeds represents a preoccupied mind.

Action Step – Minimize the distractions

[4] The good soil represents a willing mind.

Action Step – Cooperate with what God says

5. ACT ON GOD'S WORD

James 1:22 – *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”* (NIV)

6. I MUST PUT MY TRUST IN THE TRUTHFULNESS OF GOD'S WORD

Psalm 119:105 – *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”* (NIV)

[PICTURE #2 – Compass]