

BETTER TOGETHER



Sunday, April 26, 2026
Pastor Jonathan Armstrong

Big Idea: Strong Christians are biblically formed Christians.

Text: 1 Peter 1:22 - 2:3

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Quote: “Familiarity and proximity with the Bible has the ability to create apathy in the heart which leads to atrophy in the soul.”

1. Recognize The Word For What It Is

- It is living & transformative.

1 Peter 1:22 — *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth... being born again... by the word of God...*

- The Word is living.

Hebrews 4:12 — *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

- The Word is enduring.

1 Peter 1:24–25 — *The grass withereth... but the word of the Lord endureth for ever.*

- The Word is essential.

1 Peter 2:2 — *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

- The Word is sustaining.

Matthew 4:4 — *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

2. Prioritize The Word For What It Does

- It produces growth & maturity.

Joshua 1:8 — *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

Psalms 1:2-3 — *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

Colossians 3:16 — *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...*

3. Internalize The Word For What It Produces

- It is shaping & protective.

1 Peter 1:22 — *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth... unto unfeigned love of the brethren...*

- The Word Guards You.

Psalms 119:11 — *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

- The Word Directs You.

Psalms 119:105 — *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

- The Word Transforms You.

Romans 12:2 — *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

- The Word Anchors You.

John 17:17 — *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

Recognize → changes how you see the Bible

Prioritize → changes how you schedule the Bible

Internalize → changes how you live the Bible

Learning To Live Questions

- (1) Do I approach the Bible as something to check off or something to be shaped by?
- (2) Has my familiarity with Scripture led to deeper hunger or quiet apathy?
- (3) When I read the Bible, am I looking for information or transformation?
- (4) What evidence is there that God's Word is actively forming my life right now?
- (5) If I'm honest, do I truly believe the Word is essential for my growth?