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Ro 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

True saving faith “comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” So, for an individual to come to a true saving faith in Christ he or she must be given the word of Christ, the Gospel, The Word of God. Without the truth of God’s Word no one would hear the message of the Gospel (The Good News) and be saving.

Not only does mankind’s salvation rest on the foundation of God’s Word, but so does the spiritual health of Christ disciples and His Church. That’s why each Christian and Church that wants to truly glorify God must be centered on His word and allow His Word to shape all we think and do.

In a recent study of the book: *The Deliberate Church; Building Your Ministry on The Gospel*, by: Mark Dever and Paul Alexander, they brought forth a principle commanded in Scripture (God’s Word) that every Christian and Church can use to discern how well we’re centering our ministries on “*the word of Christ.*” I hope it helps you as much as it has helped others and myself in the discernment process. Below are the five essential basics set forth in the above mentioned principle that should be followed in life of every Christian and every God glorifying Church.

1. Read the Bible

Scripture commands us to give attention to personal and public reading of Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13; Jer. 23:29; 2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 4:12).

2. Preach the Bible

Scripture commands every Preacher/Elder to preach the word (2 Tim. 4:1-2, 16; Rom. 10:14-17; Acts 8:4).

3. Pray the Bible

Scripture commands us to pray privately and publicly in accordance with the guidelines given in Scripture. We must look to Scripture to give us a correct pattern for prayer. We have a tendency to make our prayers way to man focused if we don’t look to Scripture for the right pattern. One pattern given is the ACTS pattern of prayer. ACTS is the acronym for: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. This type of prayer helps us to acknowledge our dependence on God personally and corporately.

4. Sing the Bible

Scripture commands us to build each other up and praise God through Biblically centered songs (Eph. 5:19).

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5. See the Bible

Scripture commands us to use the ordinances (Baptism and the Lord's Supper) as a visual presentation of the Gospel. The bread and the wine in the Lord's Supper are visual reminders of Christ finished work on the cross on our behalf (Lk. 22:19-20). In the same way Baptism portrays visually our spiritual death to sin, our symbolic burial with Christ, and our resurrection with Him to new life (Rm. 6:3-4).

As you can see, these are five essentials commanded in Scripture that can each of us and our church stay focused on "the word of Christ" is all we do. May God bless you as you apply these commands and may God bless our Church as we deliberately implement these commands corporately.

Pastor Preston