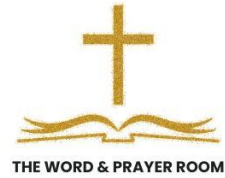


Settled Series



Day 3: You Trust Google, But Not God?

You rely on broken sources daily – but question the only Word that’s never failed.

Key Scripture: Psalm 119:89 (NLT)

“Your eternal word, O Lord, stands firm in heaven.”

Context: The Word You Don’t Trust Is Holding Everything Together

You trust the GPS to take you to places you’ve never been. You trust a stranger’s restaurant review over the menu in front of you. You trust your phone’s alarm, your bank app’s numbers, and your search engine’s answers. And none of these things are 100% reliable. They glitch, fail, crash, or lie. But when it comes to the Word of God - the one thing that’s stood unbroken across time, kingdoms, regimes, cultures, and ideologies - that’s where your trust stops? Let’s stop pretending that this is about lack of evidence. It’s not that you don’t have a reason to trust the Bible - it’s that you don’t want to be accountable to it. You treat the Bible like it needs to earn your trust. But your trust is already going to far less stable things, every single day. You’re not unsure – you’re selective.

Why this matters now

Because we’ve been trained to trust what’s fast, popular, and self-validating, and to question what’s slow, tested, and confrontational. The Bible doesn’t scroll. It doesn’t flatter. It doesn’t update itself to fit you. And that’s exactly why it’s still trustworthy. The world offers opinions. The Word offers truth. If you trust systems that fail - why hesitate with the one Word that never has?

Why we struggle with this

- **We trust what feels familiar – not what’s faithful.** We’d rather listen to a trending voice than an eternal one.
- **We expect Scripture to adapt to our perspective.** And when it doesn’t, we call it outdated – instead of admitting it’s unyielding.
- **We’ve mistaken uncertainty for wisdom.** But doubting the only thing that’s never failed isn’t cautious – it’s foolish.
- **We’ve made trust conditional on comfort.** But truth doesn’t need to feel good to still be good.

Verse Breakdown: Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

- **“Your eternal word...”** Not temporary. Not passing. Not subject to revision. Eternal.
- **“...O Lord...”** The Word belongs to the Creator – not the culture. It doesn’t need our edit to hold authority.
- **“...stands firm in heaven.”** God’s Word is not floating or wavering. It’s firm – unmoved by feelings, trends, or human objections.

Research That Backs This Up

- **Biblical narratives continue to shape how people interpret suffering, success, and resilience.** The story of Job, for example, has been referenced in psychology, trauma therapy, and grief counselling as a model of persevering faith in the face of intense suffering – without losing identity or hope.
- **Modern self-help often mirrors biblical wisdom.** Principles found in Proverbs – like hard work, humility, self-control, patience, and seeking wise counsel – are regularly echoed in leadership books, coaching frameworks, and behavioural science, often without crediting their biblical origin.
- **The Bible's impact on mental health and well-being is measurable.** Research from the Harvard Human Flourishing Programme (2020) found that people who engage with Scripture regularly report higher levels of hope, purpose, and psychological stability – especially in crisis.
- **Biblical language still shapes everyday culture.** Phrases like “valley of the shadow of death,” “by the skin of your teeth,” “go the extra mile,” and “the powers that be” all originate from Scripture – showing that the Bible is not just ancient, it’s embedded.
- **Justice and equality movements often draw from biblical foundations.** The speeches of Martin Luther King Jr., the moral convictions behind the abolition of slavery, and even the structure of modern human rights law have strong roots in the justice language of Scripture.

The Bible is not a forgotten book. It’s a blueprint you’re already living by – whether you trust it or not.

Key Themes

- We trust imperfect sources daily – yet hesitate with the perfect Word.
- The Bible doesn't need to feel familiar to be true.
- Trust is not about convenience – it's about confidence in consistency.
- If God's Word has never failed – maybe the problem is our filter, not His voice.
- We're not cautious – we're just avoiding conviction.

Practical Application

- **Audit your trust.** List 5 things you depend on daily (e.g. GPS, reviews, data). Then compare your trust in those to your trust in Scripture.
- **Read Psalm 119 out loud.** Don't skim it. Let it confront your doubts about the Word's relevance, reliability, and endurance.
- **Start with one verse.** Choose one promise from Scripture and decide to live like it's absolutely true – no backup plan, no second-guessing.
- **Stop editing.** Where have you treated Scripture like it's optional advice? Write it down. Then declare: "This is no longer up for negotiation."

Prayer

Father, I trust so many things without question – but I've questioned Your Word. I've delayed obedience while following broken sources with blind faith. Forgive me for calling it caution when it was pride. Help me to stop treating Your truth like a draft – and start living like it's final. Let my confidence in You outweigh my addiction to everything else. In Jesus' name – Amen.

✚ **Final Takeaway:** You already know how to trust – you just keep giving it to the wrong source. God's Word doesn't need your vote to be true. It's not unstable. It's not trending. It's settled.