



Our Core Values

PASTORS GEORGE & TERRI PEARSONS

DAY I—Why Core Values?

A. We Are Going to Look at Core Values

1. Maybe you've heard of core values before, maybe not. It's a popular phrase in the business world, and for good reason.
2. An article by *Forbes*¹ reads:
 - a. "Core values are the principles that a business aims to operate by."
 - i. *Shouldn't believers have principles that we purpose to operate by?*
 - b. "They should also be the mindset that guides all relationships...."
 - i. If we can identify the core values we are to hold on to, we have a clear guide to how we are to relate to each other in our families, churches and society in general.
 - c. "Core values should also serve as a compass and filter to navigate through any decision-making process."
 - i. In a world full of deception, immorality and godlessness in general, our core values should
 - (a) be the standard by which we measure every decision
 - (b) keep us in the will of God.
 - d. "Using core values as guidelines ensures that every interaction, decision and move that is made has a purpose... It results in greater clarity and integrity."
3. Having and living by the same core values creates a culture in a family, a church, an organization.

B. What Are Core Values?

1. Let's define *core*:
 - a. A core is the central part of something.
 - b. It is where seeds for reproduction are produced.
 - c. It is central to its existence and character.
 - d. That which is of greatest importance
2. What does *value* mean?
 - a. One's principles or standards of behavior
 - b. One's judgment of what is important in life
3. Put together, what are *Core Values*?
 - a. They are what we hold most dear.

¹ David Henzel, "Why and How to Define Your Company's Core Values, *Forbes.com*, July 7, 2022, accessed 3/2024.





- b. They are an internal compass guiding all decisions and actions.
 - i. Our son, Jeremy, says that he was raised in “the household of faith.” Walking by faith and exercising his authority as a believer is still how he lives his life.
- c. Our core values are central to how we conduct our lives, guiding our thoughts, motives and actions.
- d. Why? Because we believe them. We become rooted and grounded in them.
 - i. Many years ago, Jerry Savelle went to preach for a particular denomination. He preached an actual message of their founder. After he ministered, the leadership came to him and said, “That was tremendous. Where did you get that teaching from?” His reply: “Your founder.”
 - ii. It takes effort and diligence to not drift from our beliefs.
- e. *Core Values* is the popular term; a stronger word would be: *Core Beliefs*.
- f. Believing comes out of the heart.
 - i. Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV): “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
 - ii. Every person is a spirit being, because mankind was made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26).
 - iii. Remember, “God is a Spirit” (John 4:24).
 - iv. So, believing comes out of the heart—or the spirit of a man. That’s where the power is that directs our lives.
 - v. Jesus said in Luke 6:45 that anything your heart is full of will come out of your mouth—you’ll talk about it and live it—for better or for worse.
 - vi. “From the abundance of your heart, your mouth leaks.” —Gloria Copeland
- g. Biblical core values, core beliefs, will reproduce heaven in your life.
- h. However, negative beliefs can ruin everything in your life. “Be on the watch...that no root of resentment (rancor, bitterness, or hatred) shoots forth and causes trouble and bitter torment, and the many become contaminated and defiled by it” (Hebrews 12:15, AMPC).
- i. Everything is filtered through your beliefs.

C. What Are *Our* Core Values?

- 1. These are what we have identified as the most important values or beliefs to hold on to, as believers.
- 2. They are:
 - a. We put the Word of God first place.
 - b. We live by faith.
 - c. We walk in love.
 - d. We are led by the Holy Spirit.
 - e. We pray about everything.
 - f. We protect the anointing.



- g. We honor God.
- 3. All of these core values can be summed up in both the first and the last. But, by breaking them down, we have a better picture of the standards we hold ourselves to.

D. Why Do We Need Core Values?

1. The days we live in are like the days of Noah.
 - a. Wicked; no value for life; debase; violent
 - b. Full of hatred for God, despising anything good
 - c. Wars on top of wars—of all kinds are seen.
 - d. People calling others “intolerant” and then killing or harming those who don’t agree with them
 - e. The earth is revolting under the pressure of sin with cataclysmic weather, disease and earthquakes, resulting in famine and death.
2. Without these values at our core, the pressures in the world and deception of the age will steal, kill, and destroy.
3. It is possible to influence society and be relevant, yet remain grounded in who we are. To do so, we must know what we are called, by Jesus, to do, and be grounded in our values—to such a degree that outside elements cannot move us.
4. Romans 12:2 (NKJV): “Do not be conformed to this world, but *be transformed by the renewing of your mind*, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
 - a. We must renew our minds to what the Bible says.
 - b. As the Word drops down on the inside of us, these values become intrinsic, and we reproduce them in our lives.
 - c. We internalize these core values by acting on them. This is not just memorizing the list.
 - d. “I used to believe that God will make you sick. I had to renew my mind to the Word that says, ‘By the stripes of Jesus, I am healed.’ My core belief changed.” —Pastor George
 - e. You can use these core values to override anything in your life that needs adjusting.
5. We order our thoughts, words and actions in line with these biblical values.
6. We have identified seven core values a believer needs to stay steady, and to help us, as Jesus instructed, occupy till He comes (Luke 19:13).
7. “Without core values rooted in God’s Word, we are ships without rudders, destined to be tossed back and forth, subject to every whim of evil. But with them, we have the tools we need to weather any storm and come out better than before.” —Pastor Terri
8. Making these core values essential in our lives will accelerate growth and bring transformation in our lives.



Our Core Values

PASTORS GEORGE & TERRI PEARSONS

DAY 2—Core Value #1—We Put the Word of God First Place

A. *Why Core Values?* Review

1. *Core Values* are what we hold most dear. They are an internal compass guiding all decisions and actions. They are central to how we conduct our lives; guiding our thoughts, motives and actions because we believe them.
2. Believing, according to Romans 10:10, for with the heart we believe.
3. Living by these core values will reproduce heaven in your life.
4. The believer established in his or her beliefs “shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid...” (Psalm 112:6-8).
5. Our Core Values
 - a. We put the Word of God first place.
 - b. We live by faith.
 - c. We walk in love.
 - d. We are led by the Holy Spirit.
 - e. We pray about everything.
 - f. We protect the anointing.
 - g. We honor God.
6. We can have influence in society and be relevant, and yet remain grounded in who we are. To do so, we must know what we are called, by Jesus, to do, and be grounded in our values to such a degree that outside elements cannot move us.

B. Core Value #1—We Put the Word of God First Place

1. What word is first? Whose word? *The Word of God*.
2. Don't treat God's Word casually, like you may treat yours or others.
3. John 1:1: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
4. God and His Word are One—One and the same.
 - a. God and His Word are the same. They don't differ.
 - b. Can you say that if I've heard your word, then I've heard you?
 - c. What you say should be what you mean.
5. Hebrews 4:12-13 (NKJV): “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”
 - a. This verse calls the Word *Him*. The very Word itself is Him.



- b. The Word is living, not dead words on a page.
 - c. The Word is *powerful* = power-full.
 - i. Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV)—He is "...upholding all things by the word of His power."
 - ii. It's not power that delivers His Word. It is His Word that delivers power!
 - iii. When you start seeking power without the Word, you will fall short, and you may end up with something that is not in line with God's Word at all.
 - iv. Seek the Word with the understanding that power is in that Word—then the power is there.
 - v. The power of God is inherent to the Word, not the Word inherent to power. His power is inherent *in* the Word.
 - d. The Word is the sword that divides between soul and spirit.
 - i. You are a spirit. You have a soul, which is your mind, will and emotions. You live in a body.
 - ii. It takes the Word to define those and give purpose and the right priority to each one.
 - iii. Because the Word of God is God, it ministers to all three parts: faith for your spirit, peace for your soul, health for your body—often all at the same time!
 - iv. It discerns the thoughts and even the intentions of your heart.
 - v. It will speak to you based on the thoughts you have today. Then tomorrow it will say something fresh to you because your thoughts have changed.
 - vi. The Word is always right now, because God is right now.
 - e. "Don't put pressure on people, and don't put pressure on yourself. Put pressure on the Word, because it will not break." —Kenneth Copeland
6. How reliable is the Word?
- a. Matthew 24:35—His words shall not pass away.
 - b. Isaiah 40:8—"The word of our God shall stand forever."
 - c. Proverbs 30:5—Every word of God stands true.
 - d. John 17:17—His Word is truth—and the truth makes us free.
 - e. 1 Peter 1:23—The Word is incorruptible. It won't bend or break under pressure.
 - f. Psalm 119:130—The entrance of His Word brings and gives light.

C. What Does It Mean to "Put the Word First Place"?

- 1. *First* defined:
 - a. Preceding all others in time, order and importance
 - b. Having the highest and most prominent part
 - c. In preference of something else
 - d. The highest or chief voice
 - e. Before anything else in consideration
- 2. Matthew 6:33 (NKJV): "But *seek first* the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."
 - a. The Word is preeminent.



- b. Everything else is compared to the Word and measured by it.
- 3. "We put the Word of God first place and make it final authority in our lives. We trust and rely on it the way we would the word of a doctor, lawyer or highly trusted friend."
—Kenneth Copeland
- 4. This means we go to it first.
 - a. It's the first thing in our day. We read the Bible each morning.
 - b. We go to it first for answers, direction.
 - c. All else is secondary. If something opposes what the Word says, then out it goes.
- 5. We give the Word attention—more attention than anything else.
 - a. Gloria Copeland read the Gospels and Acts in the *Amplified Bible* three times in 30 days. She committed to put the Word first...in spite of being unpacked in their new house with small children. Yet as she obeyed the Lord and took time to do this, supernaturally she was able to get everything done.
 - b. When you put the Word first place, it will promote you. It will put you first place.

D. We Order Our Lives by the Word

- 1. In 1967, the Copelands read Romans 13:8, "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another."
 - a. AMPC—"Keep out of debt."
 - b. Brother Copeland thought, *How will we ever have a decent car, much less an airplane?* Gloria thought, *How could we ever have a nice house?*
 - i. They determined, "If that's what the Book says, then that's what we will do."
 - c. They knew they had to have more than one verse, so they studied to show themselves approved, rightly dividing the Word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). Through this, the written Word became a word of God to them.
 - d. Once they made the commitment, the Word began to work for them. Not only did they come out of debt, but they discovered how THE BLESSING would prosper them.
- 2. When trouble came, sickness came, friends left, depression came, we did what we were trained to do—go to the Word.
 - a. "When I received a bad medical report, the Holy Spirit quickened a response in my spirit. I declared, 'My healing is already an accomplished fact.'"—Pastor George
 - b. "The Lord delivered me out from under depression as I persisted in the Word and prayer."—Pastor Terri
 - c. We taught our children: "What does the Word say?"
- 3. The preeminent question in the life of every believer, every Christian family, must be: "What does the Word say?"
- 4. For the Word to have final authority, we must change our lives to line up with the Word, not try to make the Bible fit our lifestyle.
- 5. John 1:14: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."
- 6. Jesus is the Word made flesh. If the Word is not first and final authority in our lives, then Jesus is not truly Lord.



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DAY 3—Core Value #2—We Live by Faith (Part I)

A. Core Values Review

1. Core values are the values we hold in such esteem that we guide our lives by them. They are our filter, our compass.
2. They are central to how we conduct our lives, guiding our thoughts, motives and actions because they are what we believe.
3. Our identity must be based in who the Word of God says we are. Everything else will be subject to what we believe about who we are in Christ.
4. Believing comes out of the heart—or the spirit of a man. That's where the power is that directs our lives.
5. What are our core values?
 - a. We put the Word of God first place.
 - b. We live by faith.
 - c. We walk in love.
 - d. We are led by the Holy Spirit.
 - e. We pray about everything.
 - f. We protect the anointing.
 - g. We honor God.
6. Regarding putting the Word of God first place:
 - a. It comes first in our day, but even more it means it has first place and final authority over all else.
 - b. God and His Word are One (John 1:1).
 - c. He upholds all things by His Word (Hebrews 1:3).
 - d. We have to teach our children to go to the Word of God.
 - e. The preeminent question in the life of every believer, every Christian family, should be: "What does the Word say?"
 - f. For the Word to have final authority means we must change our lives to line up with the Word, not try to make the Bible fit our lifestyle.

B. Core Value #2: We Live by Faith

1. Four times Scripture declares this:
 - a. Galatians 3:11—"The just shall live by faith."
 - b. Romans 1:17—"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed *from faith to faith*: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."
 - c. Hebrews 10:38—"The just shall live by faith."
 - d. Habakkuk 2:4—"The just shall live by *his* faith."
2. The just—the righteous—shall live by faith, according to the Word.



C. Why Faith? Everything Is by Faith!

1. We can't get saved without it.
 - a. Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV): "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."
 - i. Grace is a gift—but it is received by faith!
 - ii. All that God has so wonderfully given by His grace, we receive by faith.
 - b. 1 Peter 1:9 (AMPC): "...you receive the result (outcome, consummation) of your faith, the salvation of your souls."
2. All grace—grace for all—is by faith.
 - a. Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV): "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."
 - b. What is grace? God's willingness to give us His power to be what He wants us to be, to do what He wants us to do, and to have what He wants us to have.
3. We can't walk the Christian walk without faith.
 - a. 2 Corinthians 5:7: "We walk [with God] by faith, not by sight."
 - b. We can't live the Christian life without faith.
4. We can't be blessed without it.
 - a. Galatians 3:9—Those who have faith are blessed along with faithful Abraham, the man of faith.
 - b. Brother Copeland has a wonderful teaching on "Following the Faith of Abraham" in the audio series *The Spirit of Faith*.²
5. We are guarded and kept by God's power through faith.
 - a. 1 Peter 1:5 (NKJV): "Who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."
6. Faith makes us whole. It brings healing.
 - a. "According to your faith" (Matthew 9:29)
 - b. More than once Jesus told someone, "Your faith has made you whole" (Matthew 9:22; Mark 10:52).
 - c. There are 19 specific healing testimonies in the New Testament. The majority note it was the faith of those who came to Jesus that produced the healing results.
 - d. James 5:15 (NKJV): "The prayer of faith will save [or deliver] the sick."
7. By faith we have what we hope for.
 - a. Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV): "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
 - b. Twenty-two times in Hebrew 11 it declares, "By faith! By faith! By faith!" (One time it says, "through faith.")
 - c. Hebrews 11 is the Faith Hall of Fame; yet its heroes were not perfect. It was through faith, in spite of their shortcomings, that they obtained what God promised.

² Available at kcm.org/shop



- d. When we have faith in what God can do, then what He can do is made available to us. It becomes a divine exchange.
- 8. We can't fight the good fight without faith.
 - a. 1 Timothy 6:12 (NKJV): "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...."
 - b. Ephesians 6:11-16 (NKJV): "Put on the *whole armor of God*, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may *be able to withstand* in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, *taking the shield of faith* with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."
 - c. All the armor goes to work for us by faith.
 - d. It takes faith to deal with and overcome the devil and his dirty tricks.
 - e. Kenneth E. Hagin said, "As long as Satan can hold you in the arena of reason, he will whip you every time—in every battle, every conflict. But if you will hold him in the arena of faith, you will defeat him every time!"³
 - f. All the armor of God depends on us not only having faith but knowing how to use it.
- 9. We can't overcome the world without faith.
 - a. 1 John 5:4: "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."
- 10. We can develop our faith.
 - a. We grow, going from faith to faith (Romans 1:17).
 - b. 2 Thessalonians 1:3—"Your faith groweth exceedingly."
 - c. Psalm 84:7—"They go from strength to strength."
 - d. Faith in God's Word works.
 - e. John 17:17: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."
 - f. Regardless of time or circumstance, the Word will prove true in our lives as we hold fast in faith.
- 11. We can't stand without faith.
 - a. 2 Corinthians 1:24 (AMPC)—"...for in [your] faith...you stand firm."

³ Kenneth E. Hagin, "How to Win Your Unserved Loved Ones—Part 2," www.rhema.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1023:how-to-win-your-unsaved-loved-one, accessed 3/2024



Our Core Values

PASTORS GEORGE & TERRI PEARSONS

DAY 4—Core Value #2—We Live by Faith (Part II)

A. Core Values Review

1. As you build biblical values into your life, you have to order your thoughts, words and actions in line with the Word. It will get to a point where those core values are ordering your words and actions without you thinking about it.
2. Core values are the values we hold most dear. They are central to how we conduct our lives, guiding our thoughts, motives and actions. They are an individual's fundamental root beliefs and highest priorities that drive their behavior.
3. Your culture, attitudes and upbringing all shaped your values over time. Those beliefs deep in your heart direct your life—for better or for worse.
4. You must lock in on what God says He has for you and who He says you are in Christ.
5. Our core values:
 - a. We put the Word of God first place.
 - b. We live by faith.
 - c. We walk in love.
 - d. We are led by the Holy Spirit.
 - e. We pray about everything.
 - f. We protect the anointing.
 - g. We honor God.
6. We established the Word is first place and the final authority in our lives.
 - a. Why? Because God and His Word are One.
 - b. His Word is alive! His Word is powerful!
 - c. His Word, when given place, discerns between your spirit and soul and your body and delivers whatever you need for the perfect will of God to be done in every part.
 - d. It is the Word that delivers God's power!
7. If the Word is alive, powerful and so real, how do we get it to actually work in our lives?
8. "Faith is the catalyst that makes the Word work." —Kenneth Copeland

B. Core Value #2: We Live by Faith

1. Four times the Scriptures declare that the just shall live by faith.
2. If we're to live by faith, we need to know what faith is and how it comes.
3. Hebrews 11:1: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
 - a. AMPC: "Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things (we) hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]."
 - b. Faith *is*. Faith is now.
 - i. Faith is the title deed to the promises of God.



- ii. Your title deed declares, "This belongs to me."
 - c. Faith is a spiritual force, not an imagined concept.
- 4. Romans 10:17 (NKJV): "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
 - a. Hearing the Word produces faith.
 - b. Faith then moves the Word.
 - c. Think of it! The Word will produce the faith necessary to bring itself to pass.
- 5. Faith is regulated by spiritual law.
- 6. "Bulldog faith" is a faith that locks in on the Word of God and does not let go—regardless of naysayers, the devil, circumstances or symptoms.
- 7. "Bulldog faith is a faith that does not quit." —Pastor George
- 8. We are commanded to have faith—and not just any kind of faith.
 - a. Mark 11:22 (NKJV): "Jesus answered and said to them, 'Have faith in God.'"
 - b. The Greek says, "Have the faith of God."
 - c. Have the God kind of faith.
 - d. Faith comes from the Word. It is His faith. God doesn't give you a different kind of faith than He has. His faith is obviously more developed.
 - e. Develop an uncommon faith that is full of purpose.

C. We Must Live a Lifestyle of Faith, Growing in Faith

- 1. The Bible speaks of *no* faith, weak faith, little faith, strong faith and *great* faith.
- 2. 2 Thessalonians 1:3—Our faith should steadily be growing.
- 3. You can monitor your faith.
 - a. You know when things shake you up or fear enters in.
 - b. When a storm rose up, the disciples were afraid, and Jesus said to them, "Where is your faith?" (Luke 8:25).
 - c. If you're in fear, you're not in faith. They are opposite forces.
 - d. Complaining, being easily offended or frustrated are signs of a lack of faith. Don't disregard these indicators.
- 4. *Faith is based on what the Word of God says.*
 - a. Don't judge your faith by feelings. You can be in faith in your heart, but fear or doubt approach you from the outside.
 - b. Joy and peace are the best indicators of faith.
 - c. Operating on assumptions, instead of by faith, is dangerous.
 - d. "Am I in faith? Am I not in faith?"
- 5. What do you do with this faith?
 - a. 2 Corinthians 4:13 (NKJV): "And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I believed and therefore I spoke,' we also believe and therefore speak."
 - b. What do we speak? What we believe.
 - c. Mark 11:22-24 (NKJV): "So Jesus answered and said to them, 'Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."
 - i. By faith we get rid of mountains.
 - ii. By faith we receive God's provision.



- d. *Faith must be in our hearts and our mouths.*
- e. Thinking on the Word is a part of meditation.
- f. However, thoughts will die unborn if you don't speak them.
 - i. Matthew 6:31—Jesus said, "Take no thought, *saying*, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?"
 - ii. *You take thoughts by saying them.*
- g. What you say will release what you have faith in—good or bad.
- h. Release your faith in God's Word toward a situation, as it is God's Word that "becomes flesh." It's the Word that produces.
- i. "I construct things with the words of my faith. I construct things with the eye of faith." —Pastor George
- j. Hebrews 11:3: "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."
- k. Faith without corresponding action is dead (James 2:17).
- l. Do whatever the Lord directs, not what you think, and then you can stand firm in faith on His promises.

D. Why Does All of This Depend on Faith?

1. Hebrews 11:5-6 (AMPC): "Because of faith Enoch was caught up and transferred to heaven, so that he did not have a glimpse of death; and he was not found, because God had translated him. For even before he was taken to heaven, he received testimony [still on record] that he had pleased and been satisfactory to God. But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out]."
 - a. Enoch pleased God.
 - b. Without faith you can't please God.
 - c. What did Enoch do—by faith—that was so pleasing to God?
 - d. Genesis 5:22, 24 (AMPC): "Enoch walked [in habitual fellowship] with God.... and he was not, for God took him [home with Him]."
 - e. Enoch used his faith to walk with God. This is the most important reason for faith of all!
2. All the blessings of God depend on us walking with God and that is what pleases Him.
3. No wonder Peter said, "your faith...is infinitely more precious than the perishable gold" (1 Peter 1:7, AMPC).
4. Doesn't that make you want to learn how to live by faith?
5. How do we get faith? Grow faith? Use our faith?
 - a. Go back to Core Value #1: We put the Word of God first place. Why?
 - b. Because Romans 10:17 says, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (NKJV).



Our Core Values

PASTORS GEORGE & TERRI PEARSONS

DAY 5—Core Value #3: We Walk in Love

A. Core Values Review

1. “Your core values will pick the path you go down in life.” —Pastor Terri
2. In society, racial division, age division and gender division keep coming up and are pushed all the time.
3. Mark 3:25: “If a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”
4. We are learning to live according to biblical core values. They will put everything else into perspective—in light of what God has said.
5. Core values are the values or beliefs we hold in such esteem that we guide our lives by them. They are our filter, our compass. They are central to how we conduct our lives, guiding our thoughts, motives and actions because they are what we believe.
6. “Our core values have to be so rooted and grounded on the inside that when the devil puts the squeeze on us, the only thing that comes out are values based in the Word of God.”
—Pastor George
7. Romans 4:20-21—Abraham “staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”
8. We must be fully persuaded, standing firm in the Word.
9. Our Core Values:
 - a. We put the Word of God first place.
 - b. We live by faith.
 - c. We walk in love.
 - d. We are led by the Holy Spirit.
 - e. We pray about everything.
 - f. We protect the anointing.
 - g. We honor God.
10. We have been learning about living by faith and how everything is by faith.
11. Hebrews 11:6—We can’t please God without faith.
12. Galatians 5:6—Faith works by love.

B. Core Value #3: We Walk in Love

1. Why is how we “walk” and live our lives important?
2. Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15 (NKJV): “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord





your God.... But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.

3. The blessing is in obeying God's commandments.
4. If you do what God says, He will produce the promised outcome.
5. In this world of sin, sickness and trouble, there is a safe place—you can live under the umbrella of God's blessings when you walk in His ways.
6. What was the greatest commandment?
7. Matthew 22:36-38 (NKJV): "'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?' Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment."
 - a. To love God is the greatest—the principal commandment.
 - i. This means it is the one that drives all others, therefore it drives our lives.
 - ii. According to Galatians 5:6, faith works by love. Your faith will not work if you're in strife.
 - iii. How do we please God? How do we walk with God? By faith. We love God by faith.
 - iv. 1 John 4:10 (AMPC): "In this is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (the atoning sacrifice) for our sins."
 - (a) God first loved us.
 - (b) We respond by loving in return.
 - (c) Faith in God's love will get us through anything.
 - v. 1 John 4:16 says we must believe that love.
 - vi. When things don't turn out like we wanted, when we don't understand...we believe the love He has for us.
 - (a) God has the answers to all our questions.
 - (b) Confidence in the Father's love will keep us steady and able to receive.
 - vii. "If you can believe the love that the Father has for you, it is going to accelerate your faith because you know beyond a shadow of a doubt, you are loved by Him. When you know you are loved by Him, it is easier to love others." —Pastor George
 - viii. John 17:23 (NKJV): "...that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."
 - ix. When we truly see that love, we love Him. Where do we get the kind of faith that can love God through the questions?
 - x. Romans 10:17: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."—Core Value #1
 - xi. Where do we find out about His love for us? Core Value #1—the Word of God!
 - b. Jesus went on to say in Matthew 22, "the second (commandment) is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (verses 39-40, NKJV).



- i. The second commandment is like the first and it is to love others as we love ourselves.
- ii. Love from God, love toward God, love people—these three all work together.
- iii. What comes from God *to* you is designed to go *through* you. If you shut it off from going through you, it will not keep coming to you.
- iv. If you do not forgive, then forgiveness cannot get to you.
- v. Mark 11:25 (AMPC): “Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop.”
- c. Later, Jesus elevated the command:
 - i. John 13:34 (NKJV): “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as *I have loved you*, that you also love one another.”
- d. We are to love even as Jesus loves. The same people. The same way.
- e. You cannot love others as Jesus has loved you until you have received the love of Jesus for you.
 - i. That love is what produces the new birth.
 - ii. His love is deposited on the inside of us when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.
- f. We can love as Jesus loves.
- g. What does that kind of love look like?

C. I Corinthians 13:1-8—With Footnotes From the *Spirit-Filled Life Bible*⁴

- 1. Verses 1-3 (NKJV): “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”
 - a. Love is crucial to our walk of faith.
 - b. *Spirit-Filled Life Bible* footnote:
“Without love the most magnificent manifestation of gifts and the most heroic self-sacrifice mean nothing. Right things must be done in the right way.”
- 2. Reading from the *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*...
- 3. Verse 4 (AMPC): “Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.”
 - a. *Spirit-Filled Life Bible* footnote:
“Love suffers long, having patience with imperfect people. Love is kind, active in doing good. Love does not envy; since it is nonpossessive and noncompetitive, it actually wants other people to get ahead. Hence it does not parade itself.

⁴ Footnotes, 1 Corinthians, Donald Pickerill, *Spirit-Filled Life*[®] Bible (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers Inc., 1991)



"Love has a self-effacing quality; it is not ostentatious.

"Love is not puffed up, treating others arrogantly; it does not behave rudely, but displays good manners and courtesy.

"Love does not seek its own, insisting on its own rights and demanding precedence; rather, it is unselfish.

"Love is not provoked; it is not irritable or touchy, rough or hostile, but is graceful under pressure."

4. Verse 5 (AMPC): "It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]."
 - a. *Spirit-Filled Life Bible* footnote:
"Love...erases resentments."
5. Verse 6 (AMPC): "It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail."
 - a. *Spirit-Filled Life Bible* footnote:
"Love does not rejoice in iniquity, finding satisfaction in the shortcomings of others and spreading an evil report, rather, it rejoices in the truth, aggressively advertising the good."
6. Verse 7 (AMPC): "Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]."
 - a. *Spirit-Filled Life Bible* footnote:
"Love bears all things, defending and holding other people up.
"Love believes the best about others, credits (people) them with good intentions, and is not suspicious. Love hopes all things, never giving up on people, but affirming their future."
7. Verse 8 (AMPC): "Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]."
 - a. Love never stops loving.
 - b. *Spirit-Filled Life Bible* footnote:
"...persevering and remaining loyal to the end."

D. How Is a Love Like This Possible?

1. This needs faith!
2. "Faith works by love—but love has to work by faith." —Pastor Terri
3. Not everyone is easy to love—in fact, no one is *always* easy to love.
4. Sometimes it's because we are more unloving than the other person.
5. So it takes faith! Where are we going to get faith for walking in love? The Word of God.
6. Romans 10:17—"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing" (not *just* reading and reading)—about what the Word tells us about love.
7. Romans 5:5 (NKJV): "The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

8. In God's love for us, He gave us His love.
9. Everything God has given us is because He loves us. And because He loves us, He has given us everything.
10. "Become love conscious by confessing and acting on God's Word today. As you meditate these scriptures, see yourself living the love life. See yourself walking in accordance with and guided by the commandments of Jesus. Develop the love He has hidden in you."
—Kenneth Copeland⁵
11. Which came first—faith or love?
 - a. Faith works by love (Galatians 5:6).
 - b. Then we believed the love which brought His love into our hearts.
 - c. "We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).
 - d. Now we are compelled to use our faith to walk in that same kind of love.
 - e. Faith works by love when it is for love's sake.

Notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

⁵ Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, *From Faith to Faith—A Daily Guide to Victory* (Fort Worth: Kenneth Copeland Publications, 1992), June 10 devotion