

Recap

Your Words – Print or Digital? | Sermon Overview (Psalm 119:57–64)

Introduction: The Battle for Our Attention

In our world of fast-paced technology, convenience is king. We live in an age where everything is just a tap away—emails, social media, books, and even Bibles. But when it comes to engaging with God's Word, is it better to go digital or to stick with the traditional print Bible?

In this sermon, "**Your Words – Print or Digital?**", based on **Psalm 119:57–64**, we explored this very question and how our approach to Scripture reflects our relationship with God. The heart of the message is simple: **God Himself must be our greatest portion**, and we must make the intentional choice to engage with His Word in a way that draws us closer to Him.

1. Our Greatest Need: God Himself

In a world that prizes minimalism, it's easy to strip life down to essentials—usually things that are tangible or material. But spiritually, what's truly essential? **God Himself**.

The psalmist in Psalm 119 declares, "**The Lord is my portion**" (v. 57), and this simple statement reflects a profound truth: **God alone is our ultimate inheritance**. This is more than just a theological concept; it's the heart of our relationship with God.

The world constantly tries to pull our attention away from God, offering all sorts of distractions that promise fulfillment. But as believers, we must remember that our greatest need is not more things or technology; it's a deeper relationship with the Lord.

2. The Battle for Our Affection

Every day, forces—whether the world, our own desires, or even the enemy—try to convince us that something other than God can satisfy our deepest longings. The key to resisting these distractions is found in one place: **God's Word**.

Psalm 119 gives us a roadmap for how to keep God as our portion. It's not just about the initial commitment; it's about **regularly feeding our souls** with God's truth, making it a daily part of our lives.

3. Psalm 119:57–64: How the Psalmist Keeps God as His Portion

In Psalm 119:57–64, the psalmist outlines six key ways he keeps God as his portion, showing us how we can do the same:

1. **Obedience** to God's Word (v. 57, 60)
2. **Seeking** God's face (v. 58)
3. **Self-reflection and repentance** (v. 59)
4. **Gratitude in hard times** (v. 62)
5. **Friendship** with those who honor God's Word (v. 63)
6. **Desire to learn** more of God's decrees (v. 64)

Through these actions, the psalmist demonstrates a life rooted in God's Word, and that's the kind of life we should strive for.

4. The Centrality of Scripture in Our Lives

In a world full of noise and distractions, it's essential that we prioritize **God's Word**. The Apostle Paul encourages us in **Colossians 3:16** to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly. This means **regularly reading, studying, meditating on, and applying** Scripture to our lives.

When we immerse ourselves in the Word, we begin to see how God desires to shape and guide us through the challenges and joys of life.

5. Why GFC Uses the NIV for Teaching

At GFC, after using a variety of translations (NKJV, NASB95), we've decided to return to the **NIV** for teaching. Why?

1. **Clarity**: The NIV is a balance between readability and faithfulness to the original text.
2. **Accessibility**: It's easy to understand, making it a great option for those whose first language may not be English.
3. **Accuracy**: It's a translation that doesn't sacrifice theological depth.

The goal isn't just to understand the Bible but to **apply it** in our lives. The NIV helps us do both with clarity and precision.

6. Print vs. Digital Bible: Why the Form Matters

While digital Bibles offer convenience, there are distinct advantages to using a **physical, print Bible**. Here's why:

- **Fewer distractions:** A digital device often comes with notifications, apps, and other distractions that pull your focus away from the text. A print Bible allows you to focus solely on the Word of God.
- **Better retention:** Studies have shown that reading from a physical book improves retention and comprehension. You remember more when you engage physically with the Bible.
- **Context and flow:** It's easier to see the big picture in a print Bible. You can flip through pages and see the context of entire chapters or books, giving you a better understanding of the narrative or theological argument.
- **A sense of sacredness:** A physical Bible can feel more sacred and set apart from the rest of your digital devices. It's a tangible reminder that you're engaging with the living Word of God.
- **Deeper engagement:** The wear and tear on a print Bible, with highlighted verses and handwritten notes, often reflect your spiritual journey. It's a personal record of God's work in your life.

To support this, starting in **August**, GFC will no longer display the main Scripture text on the screen during services. We're encouraging everyone to **bring a physical NIV Bible** to church. This shift is designed to help us refocus our attention on the sacredness of the Scriptures.

Conclusion: Making the Choice to Engage with God's Word

Choosing a print Bible may seem like a small thing, but it's a deliberate choice to **prioritize God's Word** in our lives. It's an act of worship and a reminder that we are **engaging with something sacred**, something that can transform our hearts and minds.

Ultimately, the format doesn't matter as much as the fact that we **encounter God** through His Word. As the psalmist says in Psalm 119:64:

"The earth is filled with your love, Lord; teach me your decrees."

So, let's commit to being people who honor the Word of God—not just digitally, but physically, emotionally, and spiritually. May we make space in our lives to engage deeply with the Scriptures and allow God's Word to transform us from the inside out.
