**Recap of 12/10/17:**

The Word of God is vital to…

-intimately knowing Jesus Christ  John 5:39; Luke 24:25-27

You can know the Scripture and miss Christ (because, as Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 2:10-16, spiritual things are spiritually discerned, combining spiritual truth with spiritual people) but you cannot know Christ intimately without knowing the Scripture.  Jesus can be found in the pages of both the Old and New Testaments.  Peter writes in 2 Peter 1:3,4 that intimate knowledge of Jesus Christ is the source of spiritual power and growth, spiritual vitality and godly living.

-success over temptation (success in spiritual warfare)  Matthew 4:1-11

In Jesus victory over temptation He didn't use miraculous or extraordinary means but rather defeated Satan with the same resources that are available to us, the Word of God.  The only offensive weapon in the Christian's armor as laid out by Paul in Ephesians 6:10-18 is the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.  "Satanic deception is rampant today and has infected the church, and the only weapon that defeats the deceivers is God's inspired Word."  (Warren Wiersbe)

-true worship  John 4:19-24 ("true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth);"

Worship of an "unknown god" is futile,  Acts 17:23.  "Sincerity without truth is as useless as a map of Kentucky when you're traveling through Texas.  A good many people, totally sincere in what they believe, are on the highway to hell, and all too many totally sincere preachers are busy erecting signs along the roadway" (Larry Richards).  Many times in Scripture theological sections are followed by worship as in Romans 11:33-36 and Ephesians 3:20-21.  Worship is built on and arises out of truth.  "The more we know about God—the better we can worship Him.  Where our knowledge is limted, our worship will be impoverished, or embellished!  We will seek to manufacture worship, rather than experience it.  The weaker the revelation, the stronger the ritual.  Hence, the priority of preaching and teaching!" (Dr. Grant Howard)