



Links Players

Kingdom Expansion - Fundamentals

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, ESV)

For the last twenty-five years, I have taught thousands of golfers. As I grew as a teacher and in my understanding of the golf swing, I realized that most, if not all, issues of the golf swing stem from a golf fundamental. Instead of getting caught up in a variety of teaching methodologies on the golf swing, I learned to connect any issue in the golf swing back to the appropriate golf fundamental that the swing issue is connected to. This helped me to stay focused as a teacher on the core issues.

In a golf lesson, I always start with a fundamental checklist that I move through with the golf student. I observe how they find and set up to the target. I watch their hand positioning on the grip. What is their posture as they set up in the address position? I move through the fundamentals, and I watch the important first move of the swing, the takeaway, that is an in-motion fundamental that is so crucial to the plane of the swing.

Sometimes the issues in the golf swing are so subtle, but, when you catch the issue, it will always divert back to a fundamental in the golf swing.

Our Christian walks are very similar. We live in a culture that is rapidly changing before our eyes. Our 21st century church is being corrupted with teachings that are not rooted in biblical truths. Just like some teachings of the golf swing are just modern-day philosophies that don't always fix the issue in the swing but can often cause the golf swing to get worse!

So, what are the 'Fundamentals of the Christian Faith'?

During the reformation, the reformers were convicted that the church of their day had left the fundamentals of Christianity. In their efforts to bring Biblical truth back into the forefront of the church, they created five Latin slogans that gave the Christian Church a fundamental checklist of what true Christianity encompasses. They are:

- sola scriptura (Scripture alone)
- solus Christus (Christ alone)
- sola fide (faith alone)
- sola gratia (grace alone)
- soli Deo gloria (glory to God alone)

Each slogan of biblical truth is vitally significant, and these truths are connected to one another, just like the golf fundamentals. You can have one without the other. We can use these slogans as a fundamental checklist to make sure we are staying rooted in our faith.

When we stay rooted in the fundamentals of golf, we know we have a high probability that we will produce a good shot. Like so in our Christian walk, when we stay rooted in Biblical fundamentals in the Word of God, we know we can trust our swing in the fairways of life.

Prayer – Holy Spirit! Spirit of Truth, guide us into all truth (John 16:3).

READING - 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Psalm 119:160, Heb. 4:12

OPENING QUESTIONS: With what fundamental do you most often struggle with? Discuss?

1. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 - Do you ever struggle with submitting to the Authority of Scripture? Discuss the various purposes for which Scripture is given to us.

2. Psalm 119:160 – What might it look like to trust that God's word is truth? What implications would that have upon my thinking and behavior?

3. Heb.4:12 - Reminisce with each other about a time when God's word addressed the motives of your heart.
