

Devotional: Food For Thought Series

Title: Are You A Hearer, Reader Or Doer Of The Word?

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The Hearer:

Well, as Christians, some of us are hearers of the word. We go to church on a regular basis and/or attend various church activities to listen to the word of God. We may nod in agreement or say amen when a sermon or short devotional resonates with us or moves us emotionally. Do we blindly follow along with everything that the speaker has presented to us? I am sure that over the years, you have witnessed or heard about some church folk believing every word that comes out of their pastor or minister's mouth, but have not spent any time reading the scriptures that was referenced in his sermon for a better understanding for themselves. We attend bible study, but do not read ahead in preparation for the next bible study hoping to rely on someone else to do their homework. **Romans 10:17 states "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** Yes hearing the word of God gives us faith; **but – are we applying what we have HEARD to our daily lives?**

The Reader:

Ok, we have heard the word of God, now – have we developed a curiosity or become motivated enough to read the word for ourselves? When we are exposed through sermons, speeches or teachings to material that we are not sure of or have questions about, there should not be a problem asking that person what scripture(s) were used as the foundation of his or her presentation. The purpose of asking is so that we can read and become more enlightened for ourselves. Some of us will take the time to read God's word. The result of this is that our knowledge of what is being taught to us will increase and we will get a better understanding of God's plan for us. The congregation at Berea gives us a good example of being diligent about studying God's word. **Acts 17:11 states "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether things were so."** Through our reading, we will come to the realization that God loves us. **But – are we applying what we have READ to our daily lives?**

The Doer:

We have heard God's word and have been reading God's word for a better understanding. In order to be justified in the sight of our Lord, we must be doers of His word as stated in **Romans 2:13 '(for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;'** Doers of God's word are those who apply what they have heard and read to their daily lives. They are keeping God's commandments. They are demonstrating love in everything that they do. This includes maintaining a forgiving spirit and carrying themselves in a manner that is pleasing to God. **In other words, obeying and following the teachings of Jesus Christ.**

Have you ever hear the statements:

Actions speak louder than words!

OR

I can show you better than I can tell you!

As hears, readers and **doers** of God's word, people should be able to tell that we are true Christians by our **actions**. Many of us get hung up on the fact that we attend church every Sunday to hear and read the word of God and think that this is enough. We forget that we need to apply what we have heard or read, lest we fall short and deceive ourselves.

Scripture tells us that we should not just be hearers of the word but also be doers of the word which is stated in **James 1:22 'But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.'**

In Conclusion:

Besides hearing God's word, we must also take time to read His word. We, as Christians need to make an effort to set aside some time each day to read and study God's word. There is an old saying that states "How can you serve a God that you know little to nothing about?" Hearing and reading God's word will give you the opportunity to learn about Him and hopefully, your faith in His word will grow. But after you obtain this knowledge and faith, you must act upon it; otherwise, faith without work means nothing for it states in **James 2: 17 'Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.'**

In order to spread God's word to others, along with your faith, you must also have a good working knowledge of His word. This working knowledge involves showing through our daily actions that we are followers of Jesus Christ. I hope that my words will continue to compel you to work on building your personal relationship with God. Thank you for putting aside a portion of your day to read this devotional. I would also like to thank the church leadership for giving me this opportunity to give this message of encouragement.