

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BOTH HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD OF GOD

- The bible is often referred to as God's love letter to us
- The Bible clearly emphasises God's desire to have a relationship with us and to help us to lead a fulfilled life.
- **Jesus Himself said,**
“For God *so loved the world* that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
(John 3:16)
- **The bible is also full of great wisdom and many promises to help Believers to lead an overcoming and fulfilled life –**
Jesus Himself said,
“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)
The Apostle Paul wrote,
“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- **God's desire is that we would live a life which is full of purpose and meaning. God's Word helps us to be complete and fully equipped for all that God has planned for our life. The Bible is full of wisdom and promises to help us to grow in our faith**
- **However it is so important that we apply the wisdom in the Word of God to our lives and are both hearers and doers of the Word**

- **In the book of James we read,**
“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:21-22)

- **Our obedience to God is also what pleases Him. That out of our love for Him that we want to do what He tells us to do in life. We see this in 1 Samuel where the Prophet Samuel spoke to King Saul who had disobeyed the voice of the LORD.**

“So Samuel said:

“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.” (1 Samuel 15:22)

Because of his disobedience, Saul was rejected from being King.

Jesus Himself said regarding the times just prior to His return,

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold, But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Matthew 24:12-13)

- **It is actually our obedience to the word of God that is a true indicator of our genuine love for God**
- **The more we love God the more we have a desire to glorify God with our lives as well. Jesus Himself said,**
“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” (John 14:21)
- **Experiencing ongoing intimacy of fellowship with the Lord and God’s manifest and tangible presence in our life, flows from living a life of loving obedience to His commandments. Jesus Himself said,**
“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.” (John 15:10)

- In addition to helping us to have a sweetness of fellowship with the Lord, the bible makes it clear that there are many other reasons why it is so important to be both hearers and doers of the word.

- Some of these reasons are:

i) It helps us to lead a God glorifying life so that others come to Christ through our Christian witness and lifestyle
It is so important that our lives reflect the message that we preach – For some our life is the only bible that they will read

Being both hearers and doers of the Word helps us to shine brightly in the world and to be the salt of the earth
Jesus Himself said,

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see you good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

ii) It is a key to being blessed and prosperous in life

Jesus Himself said,

“...blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”
(Luke 11:28)

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land.” (Isaiah 1:19)

The LORD said to Joshua

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)

iii) It is a key to remaining strong during the trials of life and not stumbling in our walk with the Lord

- **We will all at times will go through trials and tests in life**
- **It is often when people are under pressure or when they operate out of fear, that they are more likely to make wrong choices in life**
- **When temptations come our way in life we must choose more than ever to stand on the Word of God**
- **Jesus Himself said,**

“Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (Matthew 7:24-27)

iv) It helps us to fulfil our God given destiny by making right choices in life. In the book of Psalms we read,

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way.” (Psalm 37:23)

The Psalmist wrote,

“Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.” (Psalm 119:133)

- v) **It is a key to maintaining a vibrant faith (Sin and disobedience to God’s Word on the other hand hardens our heart and negatively affects our faith)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”
(Romans 10:17)

The book of Hebrews however gives us caution against the possible effects of persisting in sin – we need to always try and have short accounts with God so that we maintain a soft heart towards God and others.

Having fellowship with other Believers who can encourage us in our Christian walk is therefore very important.

In Chapter Three of the Book of Hebrews we read,

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,” **(Hebrews 3:12-14)**

<p>IN PARTICULAR WE MUST REFUSE TO HOLD ANY UNFORGIVENESS OR OFFENSES IN OUR HEART TOWARDS OTHERS</p>
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Jesus Himself said,

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” **(Mark 11:25-26)**

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. **(Matthew 6:14-15)**

vi) It helps us to have healthy relationships with others as we live out the biblical principles to help us to love others

The following three wonderful passages of Scripture from the Bible are just some of many in the bible that give us real keys to having good healthy relationships with others

The Apostle Paul for example wrote,

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” **(Ephesians 4:31-32)**

Jesus Himself said,

“‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.” **(Mark 12:30)**

“And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” **(Mark 12:31)**

Jesus also said,

“But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.” **(Luke 6:27-28)**

IMAGINE HOW DIFFERENT THE WORLD WOULD BE IF EVERYONE IN THE WORLD WERE BOTH HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE ABOVE SCRIPTURES FROM THE WORD OF GOD

**There would be no such thing as wars in this world.
Amen**

- I WILL NOW SHARE 7 THINGS TO HELP YOU TO BE BOTH A HEARER AND DOER OF THE WORD
 - THE FIRST FOUR THINGS ARE REASONS WHY IT IS IN OUR BEST INTEREST TO BE BOTH HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD
- THE FINAL THREE THINGS ARE KEYS OR CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES THAT CAN HELP US TO BE BOTH HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD

I will begin now by firstly listing four reasons why we are wise to be both hearers and doers of the Word

1) GOD'S WAYS ARE FAR HIGHER THAN OURS

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” **(Isaiah 55:8-9)**

2) GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR US

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” **(Jeremiah 29:11)**

The word of the Lord came to the Prophet Jeremiah in prison,

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” **(Jeremiah 33:3)**

King David wrote,

“As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.” **(Psalm 18:30)**

3) GOD KNOWS WHAT WE NEED IN LIFE EVEN BEFORE WE ASK HIM (We can depend therefore on His guidance when reading His Word)

Jesus Himself said,

“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.” **(Matthew 6:6-8)**

Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)**

4) GOD HAS A GREAT LOVE FOR US

King David was a man after God’s own heart and knew the incredible love of God for him. In Psalm 139 he wrote,

“How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.” **(Psalm 139:17-18)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **(Romans 8:38-39)**

JESUS HIMSELF DEMONSTRATED HIS INCREDIBLE LOVE FOR US BY DYING ON THE CROSS AT CALVARY TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR OUR SINS. THREE DAYS LATER HE AROSE TRIUMPHANTLY FROM THE GRAVE AND IS NOW BACK IN HEAVEN WHERE HE ALWAYS LIVES TO MAKE INTERCESSION FOR ALL BELIEVERS

Jesus Himself said,

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” **(John 15:13)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **(Romans 5:6-8)**

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Therefore He is also *able to save to the uttermost* those who come to God through Him, since *He always lives to make intercession for them.*” **(Hebrews 7:25)**

WHAT A LOVING AND FAITHFUL GOD WE SERVE. A GOD WHO IS CONTINUALLY WATCHING OUT FOR US

As the bible is 100% inspired of God we are therefore wise to build our lives on the Word of God (Being both hearers and doers of the word) I WILL NOW AGAIN SHARE AN IMPORTANT SCRIPTURE RELATING TO THE WORD OF GOD

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy,

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” **(2 Timothy 3:16-17)**

I WILL NOW FINISH BY SHARING THREE KEYS TO HELP YOU TO BECOME A HEARER AND DOER OF THE WORD

5) WE MUST SIMPLY CHOOSE TO TRUST THE LORD

Whatever is in God's Word is for our own good

We need to just accept that His ways are higher than our ways and that we need His wisdom in life

King David a man after God's own heart wrote,

“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!” (Psalm 34:8)

Even though at times it may appear easier or more convenient for us to do something other than what God is telling us to do, in the long run we will be blessed for doing what He shows us to do through His Word – BECAUSE IN THE LONG RUN HIS DIRECTION WILL BE RIGHT

The Psalmist wrote,

“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart.” (Psalm 119:1-2)

The choices that we make today can impact us for a life time – GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR US IN EVERY SITUATION AND SEASON IN OUR LIFE

The simple fact is though, that we have all made many wrong choices in the past and will still in the future at times make mistakes – None of us are perfect

HOWEVER, NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE IN LIFE TODAY – No matter how deep of a pit you may be in today, GOD CAN REBUILD YOUR LIFE – God is always the God of second chances

Even though there are always consequences of sin that we have to live with (WE NEVER SIN IN A VACUUM – Others will always be impacted by our actions) – GOD HAS A PLAN FOR EVERY ONE OF OUR LIVES THAT IS FULL OF PURPOSE AND MEANING

Today some of you many have almost given up on ever being used by God – Today I want to tell you that God is ABLE to turn your life around and that if you simply commit to being both a hearer and doer of His Word you will see God transforming your life

King David made a number of big mistakes in life which had a lifetime of consequences including his own son Absalom being killed as he tried to take over from him as King. But the Bible says that he was a man after God's own heart as he always had a great love for God and knew God's incredible love for him. King David wrote,

**“Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.”
(Psalm 103:2-5)**

AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE SECURE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD

WHEN WE COME TO CHRIST WE ARE FORGIVEN OF ALL OF OUR SINS, WE ARE JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD (Jesus paid the penalty for our sins on the cross that we might become the righteousness of God in Him) AND WE CAN HAVE PEACE WITH GOD

The bible makes it clear that it is not our works that make us right with God but that it is our faith and faith alone in Christ and in having a personal relationship with Him that puts us in right standing with God

The bible makes it clear that we can never get to heaven based on our own good works – we all fall short of God's entry requirement of sinless perfection

It is this reality that brings us to Christ in repentance and faith to receive His FREE gift of eternal life

<p>WHEN WE COME TO CHRIST <u>HE THEN BEGINS TO CHANGE US FROM GLORY TO GLORY AS WE LEARN TO WALK WITH HIM</u></p>
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As Christians our good works always flow out of our love for God and not as a means of earning His love – God loves us unconditionally

The bible makes it very clear that we are saved by grace through our faith in Christ and not based on our works and own merit and efforts – Eternal life is simply a free gift that we must receive through repentance and faith in Christ

There are many Scriptures in the bible that make this very clear. I will now share a few of these. The Apostle Paul wrote,
“But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are not longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” **(Galatians 3:22-26)**

“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” **(Romans 10:4)**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” **(Ephesians 2:8-9)**

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” **(Romans 5:1-2)**

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” **(2 Corinthians 5:21)**

“knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.”
(Galatians 2:16)

Jesus Himself said,

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” **(John 3:16-17)**

FOR BELIEVERS THE BIBLE HELPS US TO LIVE A LIFE OF PURPOSE AND MEANING AND TO MAKE RIGHT CHOICES IN LIFE

FOR BELIEVERS BEING BOTH HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD IS FOR OUR BENEFIT AND HELPS US TO REMAIN STRONG IN OUR FAITH AND TO FULFILL ALL THAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR OUR LIFE.

Our obedience to the Lord also pleases Him who loves us with a passion (Psalm 51:17-19)

Jesus Himself always lived to please His Father in heaven whilst He was here on earth. Jesus said,

“And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.” (John 8:29)

As parents we are also pleased when our children, who we love very much, respect us and adhere to the family rules.

The Apostle Paul also wrote in the book of Colossians,

“Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.” (Colossians 3:20)

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“When a man’s ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.” (Proverbs 16:7)

FOR BELIEVERS TO BE BOTH HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD HELPS US TO FULFIL OUR GOD GIVEN DESTINY BY ENABLING US TO AVOID THE PITFALLS THAT THE DEVIL WOULD LIKE TO PUT IN OUR PATH TO CAUSE US TO STUMBLE

The Psalmist wrote,

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

THE WORD OF GOD GIVES US GUIDANCE TO HELP US TO MAKE RIGHT CHOICES IN LIFE

6) WE NEED TO CONTINUALLY RENEW OUR MIND BY MEDITATING ON THE WORD OF GOD

If we are going to be hearers and doers of the Word we need to consistently make time to meditate on God's Word

In a world full of half truths and various philosophies on life, more than ever before we need to be grounded in the Word of God and continually renewing our mind with the wisdom and promises contained in the bible

The prophet Hosea wrote,

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...” **(Hosea 4:6)**

Jesus Himself said,

“If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
(John 8:31-32)

IF WE REGULARLY MEDITATE ON THE WORD OF GOD WE BOTH GROW IN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WAY OF LIVING AND WE BECOME MORE AND MORE TRANSFORMED INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST OVER TIME

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And 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.” **(Romans 12:2)**

As we continually meditate on the Word of God, allowing the word to take root in our hearts, more and more over time we begin to instinctively do what is right according to God's Word – THAT OUR FAITH IS NO LONGER JUST A MENTAL LIST OF RULES (DO'S AND DON'TS) BUT THAT WE BECOME SO CHANGED BY THE WORD OF GOD THAT WE BEGIN TO INSTINCTIVELY KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG IN LIFE

In the book of Psalms we read,

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” **(Psalm 1:1-3)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” **(Colossians 3:16)**

IF WE HAVE SPENT MUCH TIME MEDITATING ON THE WORD OF GOD AND MEMORISING KEY SCRIPTURES, THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO BRING TO OUR MIND CERTAIN SCRIPTURES THAT WE HAVE READ FROM THE WORD OF GOD, TO HELP US TO MAKE RIGHT CHOICES IN LIFE

Jesus Himself said,

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” **(John 14:26)**

**7) MAINTAINING INTIMACY IN OUR WALK WITH THE LORD
(IT HELPS US TO HEAR FROM GOD AND TO BE EMPOWERED
TO LIVE A GOD GLORIFYING LIFE) – GOD SPEAKS TO US
THROUGH HIS WORD TO HELP GIVE US GUIDANCE TO MAKE
RIGHT CHOICES IN LIFE (RHEMA WORDS)**

**God speaks to us through His Word to help us to make
right choices in life**

**When we maintain an intimate walk with the Lord we are
more sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit and are more
open to receiving Rhema Words from the Lord when we
read the Bible**

**The Word of God is living and powerful – The Holy Spirit
helps to give believers an understanding of the Scriptures
as they read the bible. The Word of God is a discerner of
the thoughts and intents of our heart and helps to bring to
light areas and attitudes in our life that need to be changed**

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“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 discerner of the thoughts and
intents of the heart.” **(Hebrews 4:12)**

The Apostle John wrote,

“But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in
you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same
anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a
lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.”
(1 John 2:27)

WHEN WE ARE IN NEED OF DIRECTION IN LIFE WE CAN EXPECT THAT GOD WILL GIVE US CLEAR GUIDANCE IN LIFE THROUGH HIS WORD

In Psalm 119 we read,

“Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.” (Psalm 119:133)

I WILL NOW FINISH BY GIVING A FEW KEYS THAT CAN HELP US TO MAINTAIN AN INTIMATE WALK WITH THE LORD – WE ALL NEED TO DEPEND ON GOD’S ENABLING POWER TO OVERCOME THE TEMPTATIONS AND CHALLENGES IN LIFE

i) Learn to be led by the Holy Spirit in all that you do in life (Be quick to respond to His conviction)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14)

ii) MAKE time on a regular basis to sit with the Lord. It helps us to get to know His voice

King David who was a man after God’s own heart wrote,

“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” (Psalm 16:11)

“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.” (Psalm 63:1)

THE PSALMIST WROTE

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” (Psalm 46:10)

- iii) Maintain short accounts with the Lord (Have a repentant heart – Be quick to address those things in your life that are not right such as wrong attitudes)**

The Apostle John wrote,

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **(1 John 1:9)**

- iv) Have a lifestyle of prayer and worship (Involve God in every area of your life. Make worship a big part of your life – Worship helps us to touch the heart of God)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Jesus Himself said,

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” **(John 4:23-24)**

The Psalmist wrote,

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!” **(Psalm 150:6)**

- v) Be quick to take wrong thoughts captive and to bring them into line with the Word of God. The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

(2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

vi) Be quick to forgive others who have hurt you. (Having unforgiving attitudes in our heart towards others, will always affect our intimacy with the Lord) JESUS HIMSELF SAID,

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” **(Mark 11:25-26)**

vii) We need to read God’s Word with an excitement and expectation that He will speak to us as we mediate on the Word of God

INTIMACY WITH THE LORD and being filled with all the fullness of God is a major key to living our life in line with the Word of God. The Holy Spirit helps to enable and empower us to live an overcoming life and to follow the ways of the Lord. For this reason being continually filled with the Holy Spirit (the right spirit) is so important to help us to live a God glorifying life and to be consistently both HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD

The more intimate our relationship with the Lord is, the more we become like Him and the more clearly we hear the still small voice of the Holy Spirit when we read the Word of God.

The Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of maintaining an intimate walk with the Lord and being continually filled with the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” **(Ephesians 3:17-19)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” **(Ephesians 5:18)**

In the book of Jude we read,

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”
(Jude 20 and 21)

I WILL FINISH WITH THE WORDS OF KING DAVID,

“**Delight yourself also in the Lord,** And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” **(Psalm 37:4)**

Intimacy with the Lord is a key to helping us to know the voice of the Holy Spirit and to gaining God’s heart for people and to living a God glorifying life which is full of purpose and meaning. It is a key to consistently being both a hearer and doer of God’s Word

SO IN CONCLUSION THREE KEYS TO HELP US TO BE BOTH HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD ARE:

- i) SIMPLY CHOOSING TO TRUST THE LORD AT ALL TIMES
- ii) CONTINUALLY RENEWING OUR MIND WITH THE WORD OF GOD BY MEDITATING ON THE TRUTH AND WISDOM CONTAINED IN THE BIBLE, AND
- iii) MAINTAINING AN ONGOING INTIMATE WALK WITH THE LORD

I will finish with the words of Jesus,

“...blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”
(Luke 11:28)