**Hearing God’s word – Isa 42:20**

*You have seen many things, but you do not observe them; your ears are open, but none hears*

**Focal Truth: Believers must hear God’s word as they read God’s word**

**Observations**

1. **Preparing to hear God’s word – James 1:21**
2. Put aside all filthy – foul sins of mind & acts
3. Put aside all malice = ill – will toward God & others
4. Receive – hear – listen to God’s word with humility
5. Accept God’s word being implanted in your mind by the work of the Holy Spirit

1 Cor. 2:12 – *we have received not of the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, so that we may know the things freel given to us by God…not in words taught in human wisdom but those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words*

1. **Read God’s word to obey – James 1: 22 -25**
2. We prove that we hear God’s word when we do it – 1:22
3. We forget God’s word if we do not do God’s word – 1:23 -24
4. We study – examine regularly God’s word in order not to forget it – 1:25
5. We are blessed by God & in life when we regularly read – study God’s word in order to do it 1:25
6. **Read God’s word to save your soul – James 1:21**
7. Ps. 119:50, 154, – *Your word has revived me*
8. Ps. 119:116 – *sustain me according to your word, that I may live*
9. God’s word saves us from living a life of sinfulness
10. God’s word saves us from ignorance and gives knowledge & wisdom
11. God’s word saves us guiding us in the path of righteousness
12. God’s word saves us from fear, despair by giving us the truth
13. **Practice obedience as you read God’s word**

James 1:22 – *Prove yourselves doers of the word*

* Allow God’s word to shape your daily thoughts, action in obeying

 the Word of God

* Identify those areas where you need to practice obedience to the Word

Matt. 7:24 *Everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them may be*

*compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock*

**Beware of the dangers of hearing God’s word without obeying it**

James 1:22 – hearing God’s word without obeying is dilusional!

1:23 – *he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was*…

* Avoid reading God’s word without a commitment to obey only to gain knowledge
* Carefully read the words and place them in your heart in order not to forget them

Matt. 13:13 – therefore I speak to them in parables because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not heart, nor do they understand

Matt. 13:19 – the ignorant hearer who does not understand the Word – Satan the

sown seed of God’s word from the heart

Matt. 13:20 – the temporary hearer – hears gladly but no roots – troubles remove the Word

Matt. 13:22 – the anxious hearer – hears the word but worries of world choke the word

1. **Habitually read God’s word to obey it**

James 1:25 – *but one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty & abides in it not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in*

*what he does*

* Read Gods word with care & focus – “looks intently” = to stoop and inspect
* Memorize & meditate on God’s word – “abides in it”
* Blessing comes on obeying God’s word – “blessed in what he does”

Ps. 119:2 – *how blessed are those that observe His testimonies*

119: 167 -168 – *My soul keeps your testimonies, and I love them exceedingly*

*I keep Your precepts and your testimonies, for all my ways are before you.*

1. **Memorize God’s word to obey it**

Ps. 119:10 – *Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against you*

**Memorizing methods**

1. Journal your readings of God’s word
2. Record a verse to remember from your readings each day, week or month
3. Commit to learn one verse from your reading each month
4. Review the verse you have learned each day for the month
5. **Meditate on God’s word to obey it**

Josh 1:8 – *this book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, an then you will have success*

**Meditating methods**

1. Choose a truth from the verses you memorize
2. Set aside a private time to think about the truth from God’s word
3. Ask yourself questions about the truth – what does it mean, why is it important
4. Apply the truth to your life condition – this is what this truth means for me today
5. Record your discovery of God’s truth from you meditation

Ps 27:4 – *one thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lor all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple.*