

Plan of Salvation Step 1: Hear the Word of God

Scripture Reading:

- **Romans 10:17 KJV** (17) So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- **Romans 10:17 AMP** — (17) So faith comes from hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the [preaching of the] message concerning Christ.

The Power of Hearing God's Word - The primary means by which God works faith in the hearts of people is through hearing the Word of God. The Gospel message must be heard, understood, and received to produce faith. The Word of God is the instrument God uses to awaken faith. Hearing implies not only the physical act of listening but also the attentive and obedient reception of God's truth. Preachers and the members of the body of Christ, the church, are vital because they proclaim the message, but ultimately, it is God who opens the heart to believe.

A. Faith is Produced by Hearing

- Romans 10:17
 - *So then faith cometh by hearing* – The scripture emphasizes the fact that you cannot have faith without the Word of God. Faith comes through learning about the Lord, how mankind failed by opening the door and ushering sin into the world. It comes from understanding the love that God had by sending His Son and by understanding the price that Christ paid for all those in the past, present, & future. Without this knowledge it is impossible to have faith.
 - *and hearing by the word of God* – The scripture further highlights what it is that we have to hear. It is not the word of our community or political leaders. It is not the word of your favorite athlete or celebrity. It is ONLY through hearing God's Word.
- Isaiah 55:3 KJV — (3) Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.
 - God urges His people to incline their ear — meaning to listen carefully — because hearing God's Word brings spiritual life. The verse further emphasizes the need take action by following the Word of God. The Amplified version states the following “ ... *the person who hears My word [the one who heeds My message], and believes and trusts in Him who sent Me ...*”. Those that hear MUST follow the message which is the Word of God.
- John 5:24 KJV — (24) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
 - Jesus emphasizes the importance of hearing His Word as the starting point of faith. Hearing represents more than just listening—it requires attentiveness and understanding. This verse reassures believers that their faith brings both present security and eternal hope.

B. Hearing Applies to All & Requires Action – The Word of God is available and applies to all with the expectation that those that hear also follow the message that God delivers through His Word.

- Matthew 13:9 KJV — (9) Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.
- James 1:22 KJV — (22) But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

The Danger of Perverting God's Word – God has made it clear that His Word is perfect and complete, requiring no adjustments. It must never be altered, misused, or applied in a way that dishonors Him..

A. God's Warning Against Corrupting His Word

- Galatians 1:7-9 - Those who preach another gospel are accursed
- II Corinthians 2:17 - Some corrupt the Word for personal gain
- Revelation 22:18-19 - Do not add or take away from God's Word

B. Modern Examples of Perverting God's Word

- Watering down the message to fit culture
- Teaching salvation through works instead of grace
- Twisting Scripture to justify sin

The Responsibility to Defend God's Word – As baptized believers in Christ we have the responsibility to remain firm in the Word of God ensuring that we use the scriptures in the proper content & context; Book, Chapter, & Verse.

A. Guarding the Truth

- II Timothy 4:2-4 - Preach the Word in season and out of season
- Proverbs 30:5-6 - God's Word is pure and must not be altered

B. Standing Firm Against False Teaching

- Galatians 1:9 - Paul repeats the warning for emphasis
- II Peter 3:16 - False teachers twist Scripture to their own destruction

How to Stay Rooted in God's Word – The only way to remain firm in God's Word is by consistently studying and reflecting on His Word.

A. Regular Study and Meditation

- Psalm 1:2 - Delight in the law of the Lord
- Joshua 1:8 - Meditate on the Word day and night

B. Pray for Understanding

- James 1:5 - Ask God for wisdom

C. Discernment through the Holy Spirit

- John 16:13 - The Spirit will guide you into all truth

Discussion Questions

1. Why is hearing God's Word necessary for faith?
2. What are some modern ways the Gospel is being perverted?
3. How can we protect ourselves from false teaching?
4. What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping us understand the truth?

Closing Scripture

- **Proverbs 30:5 KJV** — (5) Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.
- **Proverbs 30:5 AMP** — (5) Every word of God is tested and refined [like silver]; He is a shield to those who trust and take refuge in Him.