

CONNECTIONS



OUR WORDS & DEEDS

“Faith is not merely hearing; it is doing. Faith is action, and one of the most important works of faith is speaking. Your words are powerful! They will set you free, or they will put you in bondage. They will create life or enforce death.”

Psalm 1:1-3 promises us that “*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth is fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*” **Delighting in and meditating on the Word of God brings prosperity, peace, and victory!** However, delighting in God’s Word involves more than merely nodding in agreement or smiling in acknowledgment.

When someone delights in something, they think about it, talk about it, and involve themselves in it continually. When we delight in God’s Word, we think about it, talk about it, and do what it says! James wrote about the importance of saying the Word and doing the Word.

James 1:22

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

James was Jesus' brother and the first pastor of the church in Jerusalem. I've been a pastor for nearly five decades now, and I relate to James' themes that addressed real-world issues. I look at the book of James as the Proverbs of the New Testament because it is so full of practical wisdom and teaching.

James 1:22 is a short verse, but it carries a powerful punch! Did you realize that even good, church-going, baptized in the Holy Ghost Christians can become self-deceived? I've seen it repeatedly over my years as a pastor. **People can sit in church week after week. They can watch sermons online, on television, or listen to Gospel podcasts, but if they don't perform the Word, they will become deluded.** They think they are strong, but they are weak. They believe they are spiritually healthy, but they are spiritually sick. Then when they try to believe God for something, they fall short, and they wonder why. **It's because they've heard the Word, but they haven't done it.**

Romans 10:17 tells us that *"faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."* Partner, faith begins with hearing, but there is much more to it than that!

After you hear the Word, you need to decide to accept it. I know that some people listen to me every week, but some of the things I say, they just can't accept. They push those principles away. For example, when I preach from Paul's first letter to Timothy, I know that some people won't receive that Word.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

I know that some don't receive the Word from *1 Timothy 2:1-4* because they don't like certain politicians or political groups. Now, I'm sure there are government leaders that you like and others that you probably don't like much. But Paul didn't tell us to pray only for those we like, did he?

If we don't accept the entire Word of God, including the parts that we don't like or that make us feel uncomfortable, we are deceiving ourselves.

Faith is not merely hearing; it is doing. Faith is action, and one of the most important works of faith is speaking. Your words are powerful! They will set you free, or they will put you in bondage. They will create life or enforce death.

Proverbs 6:2 tells us, *"Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth."*

Proverbs 18:21 cautions that *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."*

Partner, the Word of the Lord for you today is this—hear, speak, and do the Word. Both your words and your deeds matter!

Romans 1:16 says, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

The Greek word that is translated *power* is *dunamis*; *the supernatural miracle-working power of God*. What does Romans 1:16 mean then? It means that if you hear the Word of God, accept the Word of God, and act on the Word of God, it will free you from any and all bondages. The Word will also protect you from anything that tries to enslave you like sin, sickness, lack, depression, worry, anger, and addiction.

Part of doing the Word is prioritizing the Word daily. If you want the Word to produce results, you can't pick up your Bible only on Sundays and once in a while when you're in trouble! Go to the Word daily! Consistency brings results!

Partner, everybody has some habits in life. Many people habitually drink coffee or tea in the morning. Most have the habit of brushing their teeth every morning and evening. I want to encourage you to make the Word of God a habit!

I am so addicted to praying and studying the Bible every morning that, if some emergency comes up that keeps me from it, I am out of sorts all day long. I feel like I'm taking a bath with my socks on for the next 24 hours!

The Word should be habitually read, as well as habitually performed! For example, Malachi 3:10 tells us, “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Tithing and giving offerings should be a habit—not a special event in a believer's life!

Partner when you consistently give, you are continually planting seed so that you will never experience lack. You will always have a field from which to harvest blessings! The writer of Ecclesiastes put it this way: “Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth” (Ecclesiastes 11:1-2).

James said that Christians who hear the Word, but don't continue to do what it says were forgetful hearers.

James 1:23-24

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Paul, whom I believe to be the one who penned the book of Hebrews, talked about the same principle of being a forgetful hearer of God's Word. He wrote, “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip” (Hebrews 2:1). The word *slip* means *to leak out as water would through a hole in a vessel*. In other words, you can hear the Word, but if you don't continue to focus on it, its power and efficacy will seep right through your hands like water.

Partner, if you don't want the Word to slip away from you, take notes at church, and then go home and study them. Don't let them lie around on the coffee table! Ask yourself, “How can I apply this Word? What do I need to change to make my behavior and attitudes line up with God's Word?” Hebrews 2:2-8 continues the revelation about the power of hearing, speaking, and doing God's Word.

Hebrews 2:2-8

For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

Partner, you are free to choose your words, but angels are not! Whatever angels say comes directly from the voice of God, and every word carries with it *recompense* or *payment*. If you hear, speak, and do the Word, you'll get a good payment. If you don't, you'll reap the payment from Satan, which is death in its many forms. *Romans 6:23* reminds us, "*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"

Partner, choose words that bring God's good payment—all that He has given us in Christ Jesus! *Hebrews 2:3* highlights the greatness of salvation. *Salvation* is *soteria* in Greek. It means *deliverance, help, rescue, and safety*. **In other words, every single Word of God has the power to save, heal, deliver, help, and rescue, but you must release that power through your words and deeds!**

I could boil how to succeed with God's Word down to this easy to remember saying—Use it or lose it! Habitually read and hear the Word of God. Continually speak the Word of God and consistently do the Word of God! Don't be a forgetful hearer! Keep on doing what the Word of God says, and you will be that *Psalms 1:1-3* person—whatever you do will prosper!

Pastor Deborah and I thank you for your partnership with Keith Butler Ministries. We love you and are praying for you. Always remember that! With love...



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A group of people, including men and women, are standing in a circle and holding hands. They are dressed in casual attire, with some wearing white t-shirts. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting like a church or community center. The overall mood is one of unity and support.

Partner,

We love you here at *Keith Butler Ministries*. Listen for our telephone call so that we can pray with you, wish you happy birthday, or just to follow-up with you. If you need prayer before we reach you, please call anytime...

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