



NEW TESTAMENT FOUNDATION

a.k.a. New Testament Worship Center

HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD

Faith That Hears, Believes and Acts

MEMORY VERSE	Romans 10:17 (KJV)
MAIN TEXTS	Romans 10:17; Hebrews 4:1–3; Matthew 7:21–27; James 1:22–25
COORDINATOR	Bro Williams West

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” — Romans 10:17 (KJV)

Lesson Aim

To show that biblical faith arises through hearing the message of Christ, involves trusting God’s Word, and becomes evident through Christ-centred obedience. Such obedience is not the price of salvation but the fruit of grace at work in us.

Learning Outcomes

- Explain how hearing God’s Word leads to faith and a believing response.
- Distinguish fruitful obedience from attempts to earn acceptance with God.
- Recognise Jesus Christ as the centre, author and finisher of faith.
- Practise discerning, receiving and responding to Scripture in daily life.

1. Opening Declaration | 5 Minutes

I receive the Word of life. Through Jesus Christ, my world is illuminated, and by His light I see things as they truly are. In Him I live, move and have my being. I am not ruled by passing emotions or driven by selfish desires; I am led by the truth of God’s Word and the power of His Spirit. His life fills me with righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. I am free indeed by the power of His love. In Christ alone. Amen.

2. Memory Verse & Opening Conversation | 5 Minutes

Romans 10:17: “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” — Romans 10:17 (KJV)

Question: What is the difference between hearing a message, agreeing with it and receiving it in faith?

A. Faith is founded on God’s Word

Key Scriptures: Romans 10:17; Galatians 3:2; John 5:24; Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3; Colossians 2:6.

Romans 10:17 directs our attention to the message concerning Christ. Faith is more than knowing religious facts or merely agreeing that a statement is correct. Biblical faith trusts the God who speaks, receives His Word and rests in the person and work of Jesus Christ. We enter the Christian life by faith and continue walking in Him by faith (Colossians 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:7).

As we attend to Scripture, seek understanding and depend on the Holy Spirit, we are called to respond to what God has revealed. Jesus reminds us that life is sustained by every word that proceeds from God (Matthew 4:4).

B. Mixing the Word with faith

Key Scriptures: Hebrews 4:1–3; Matthew 13:18–23.

Hebrews 4:2 warns that hearing a message without responding in faith does not profit the hearer. To receive the Word in faith is to trust God's promise rather than mere information. The Word of God points us to the living Christ; His words are spirit and life (John 6:63). As Christ is revealed through Scripture, our trust in Him is strengthened. His life in us is revealed.

In the parable of the sower, the same seed falls on different kinds of soil. The fruitful hearer receives and understands the Word and bears fruit (Matthew 13:23). Hearing alone is not the same as persevering faith; the message must be welcomed, understood and held fast.

C. Hearing becomes visible through obedience

Key Scriptures: Matthew 7:21–27; James 1:22–25; Ephesians 2:8–10.

Jesus describes the person who hears His sayings and acts upon them as a wise builder whose house stands on rock. James likewise calls us to be doers of the Word, not hearers only. Obedience is the fitting response of faith—not a substitute for trusting Christ. We are saved by grace through faith, not by works; yet we are created in Christ Jesus for good works (Ephesians 2:8–10).

Teaching emphasis

Hearing — receiving Christ's Word in faith — get understanding and grow in life of obedience. The fruit does not purchase the life of the tree; it reveals the life at work within it.

4. Christ-Centred Obedience: Grace, Not Condemnation

A. Looking unto Jesus

Key Scriptures: Hebrews 12:1–3; 2 Corinthians 3:18; John 15:4–5.

To look unto Jesus is to fix our attention and confidence on Him—His finished work, character, promises and example. As we behold the Lord, the Spirit transforms us. Jesus calls us to abide in Him, for apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5). Lasting obedience grows through fellowship with Christ, not anxious self-reliance.

B. Good works are fruit, not the price of salvation

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 2:8–10; James 2:17–22; Matthew 5:16; Romans 8:1.

James presents Abraham's actions as evidence that his faith was active and expressed through obedience. Good works do not replace grace; they show faith at work through love. As we serve, show mercy and share the gospel, our desire is that others may glorify our heavenly Father (Matthew 5:16).

Conviction leads us to repentance and renewed dependence on Christ; condemnation drives us away from His grace. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1, KJV).

5. Hearing Well: Discernment, Fellowship & the Word

Jesus teaches us to take heed how we hear (Luke 8:18). Our understanding of what we hear shapes our response. Spiritual discernment is therefore essential: we test our interpretations against Scripture and the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Declaration: Christ, the Wisdom of God

Christ has been made unto me wisdom from God (1 Corinthians 1:30). Therefore, I seek His light in every matter before me. By the Spirit, I receive understanding and learn to discern what is true, good and consistent with the character of Jesus. My life displays the greatness of God. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A. Choose the better portion

Key Scripture: Luke 10:38–42. Martha was distracted by much serving, while Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to Him. Jesus commended Mary's choice. Service has its place, but it must never displace attentive fellowship with Christ. We learn to hear Him before becoming consumed by activity for Him.

B. Give attention to Scripture

Key Scriptures: 1 Timothy 4:13; John 8:47; John 5:24. Paul urged Timothy to devote himself to the public reading of Scripture, exhortation and teaching. Our impressions and experiences should be examined in the light of God's written Word. We do not stop at familiar phrases; we seek the truth they reveal about Christ and the response He calls for.

C. Test how you hear

Key Scriptures: Luke 8:18; Matthew 4:5–7; Ephesians 6:10–18.

In the wilderness, the devil quoted Scripture but misapplied it. Jesus responded with Scripture rightly understood. A verse removed from its context can distort rather than reveal God's truth. Ask: What does the passage actually say? To whom was it spoken? How does it fit within the wider testimony of Scripture and the teaching of Jesus? As you look deeply, your eyes will be enlightened to see Jesus.

The truth of Christ exposes the works of the flesh and leads us into freedom. Stand firm, wearing the whole armour of God, holding to the truth and looking unto Jesus.

6. Illustrations: What Belief Produces

A person who trusts that a chair will support them will normally sit on it. Similarly, genuine trust in God's Word moves beyond verbal agreement into action. This illustration does not suggest that every response is instant or effortless, but that faith is meant to be lived out.

The seed and the soil: life bears fruit

A seed planted in receptive soil ordinarily begins to grow. Likewise, the Word received in faith bears fruit over time. Jesus' parable also reminds us that the condition of the soil matters: distractions, shallow roots and competing cares may hinder growth (Matthew 13:18–23). We therefore cultivate receptive hearts rather than simply blaming or comparing ourselves.

When we struggle in any part of our Christian walk, we should return to the Lord, listen afresh to His Word and seek His grace and wisdom. Some struggles involve misunderstanding or unbelief; others occur amid suffering, temptation, weakness or seasons of patient growth. In every case, our answer is not condemnation but continued reliance on Christ.

7. Personal Reflections

- How can I know a Bible verse yet miss what it reveals about Christ?
- What is one difference between obedience flowing from faith and obedience driven by fear?
- What should I do this week to study the Bible?

8. Closing Exhortation & Prayer

Do not merely collect words; behold Christ through the Word, believe Him, and walk with Him. Cast your cares upon Him, for He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).

Father, thank You for speaking to us through Your Word. Open our understanding so that we may see Jesus clearly. Strengthen our faith by Your Spirit and produce in us the obedience that flows from love. Guard us against both empty hearing and self-reliant striving. Let our lives bear fruit to Your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.