***Hearing and Doing***

 *“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?****47****Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like:****48****he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.****49****But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.” (Luke 6:46-49, ESV)*

 A follower of the Lord Jesus is called to be a hearer and doer of His word. May the Lord bless you today, dear brothers and sisters, as we hear the word of the Lord directly from our Savior’s mouth. It is always helpful for us to gather and to hear God’s Word, which shapes and forms our life with its directions and the events contained within it. It is always important to remember Jesus’ victory over sin and death, and to pass on that reality to others. Only knowing these things and verbally passing them on is not all that is required, however. Thus, today we’re going to talk about what the Lord expects from us in response to His teachings. Again, a Jesus-follower is called to both be a hearer and a doer of His Word. Let’s see what he means by His expression…

 The one who puts into practice the Lord’s Word experiences a stable faith-walk, while those that do not experience instability in their journey. The Lord is speaking about putting words into practice. The Greek word “*poieo*” has several meanings. Its general meaning in this context has to do with performing a moral or social duty. However, it doesn’t just mean that; it also means, “to keep, to advance, to practice, to be devoted to, specifically obeying the Law”, which is knowing God’s Will and obeying it. For the Lord Jesus, hearing is important because through that we know what is important for God, what is right, holy, and righteous, and especially what His will is. But it is not enough to simply “know”.

 Often, the foundation of a building takes longer to lay than to build the rest of the vertical structure. Similarly, someone who has finished their schooling, in chemistry, for example, and has a doctorate in it, needs to begin working and putting their schooling to practice. Perhaps they need to begin to put those experiments that they worked on for years in school to good use for humanity’s benefit. If they were only satisfied with collecting facts and then went ahead and took a job completely unrelated to their training, how would all their education be put into practice?

 Similarly, our faith, although enough to keep us in salvation until the end, yet is expressed in practical deeds and acts of service. It is not possible to live a holy life well without sharing it with others. It is not right to have talents or time related to serving, building, organizing, for being helpful, and then to not use them or the time for God’s glory. If we understand well the call to repentance, it is not good to simply listen to the call of the Holy Spirit to turn to Christ for years and not to come to the Lord and to surrender. It is not right to have repented and then to avoid sharing that with those who have not yet given their lives to Christ.

Therefore, if we have not done what Jesus has said or asked of us, then let us do that. If we already have, then it is always possible to share that experience lovingly, with the gentleness and wisdom of Jesus, to those who have either not heard or not obeyed His commandments. After all, Jesus’ teachings ask of us to obey. Otherwise, our lives will be tossed to and fro on the stormy sea of life as a small boat would be, one that has no anchor or whose captain has no compass or direction. If we only become silos of information and God’s Word (and not rivers), then our lives will become like the building which was built on sand, which is destined for destruction.

So, if you know the Truth, why don’t you begin to put it into practice, whether it is a crucial piece of knowledge or a command that God has made alive in your heart. Let us be those who obey the Word, and not just those who speak it. May the Lord help us, so that people will see His love and hear His voice through our obedience. May the Lord Bless you All. Amen.