

As we continue to think on God's Word and the impact that it is to have on our lives, James urges us to remember God's truth and act accordingly. He calls it being a "doer of the Word." Read James 1:22-25

Have you ever thought that truly being a "doer of the word" meant that you had to do something amazing for God? Maybe be a missionary or a pastor? I remember thinking that, unless I was called to a special ministry that maybe what I was doing wasn't enough. Perhaps when you read this passage, you think the same thing. As I've grown in my walk with the Lord, I've realized that God isn't looking for extraordinary "doers", but faithful servants who read God's Word and put it into action.

Being a doer of the Word is as simple as...friendship. Being a good friend is so important and it is an easy way to walk out the gospel in real time. So what does it take to be a good friend?

TRUSTWORTHINESS      HONESTY      DEPENDABILITY  
 LOYALTY      WILLINGNESS TO RISK      EMPATHY  
 NOT JUDGEMENTAL      GOOD LISTENER  
 SUPPORTIVE in GOOD AND HARD TIMES      FUN to BE AROUND  
 SELF-CONFIDENT      BALANCES RELATIONSHIPS  
 FINDS HUMOR in LIFE      GIVING  
 POINTS to the TRUTH in GOD'S WORD

We have been in classes at STP for seven weeks! Can you believe that? If you are an STP veteran, hopefully you are connecting with new students in your class. If you are new, I hope that you are willing to step out of your comfort zone and talk to someone. Sometimes the people who seem the most confident and outgoing are the ones who are longing to connect with a good friend. God has given you each amazing talent and gifting, and while it's fun to do theater together, authentic friendships require us to step out in faith and get to know one another.

Don't be deceived by what friendship looks like on social media. Friendship is much more than fun pictures, likes, and hearts. That's why we don't allow phones in classes or backstage. It can be uncomfortable not to have the escape that a device offers, but it is only when we get our eyes up and off our phones that we really see others. Everyone wants to be seen, and being seen in real time makes people feel loved, supported, and valued – something that social media will never do. Step out in faith and be a doer of the Word by being a good friend!

**The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.**

Proverbs 27:9