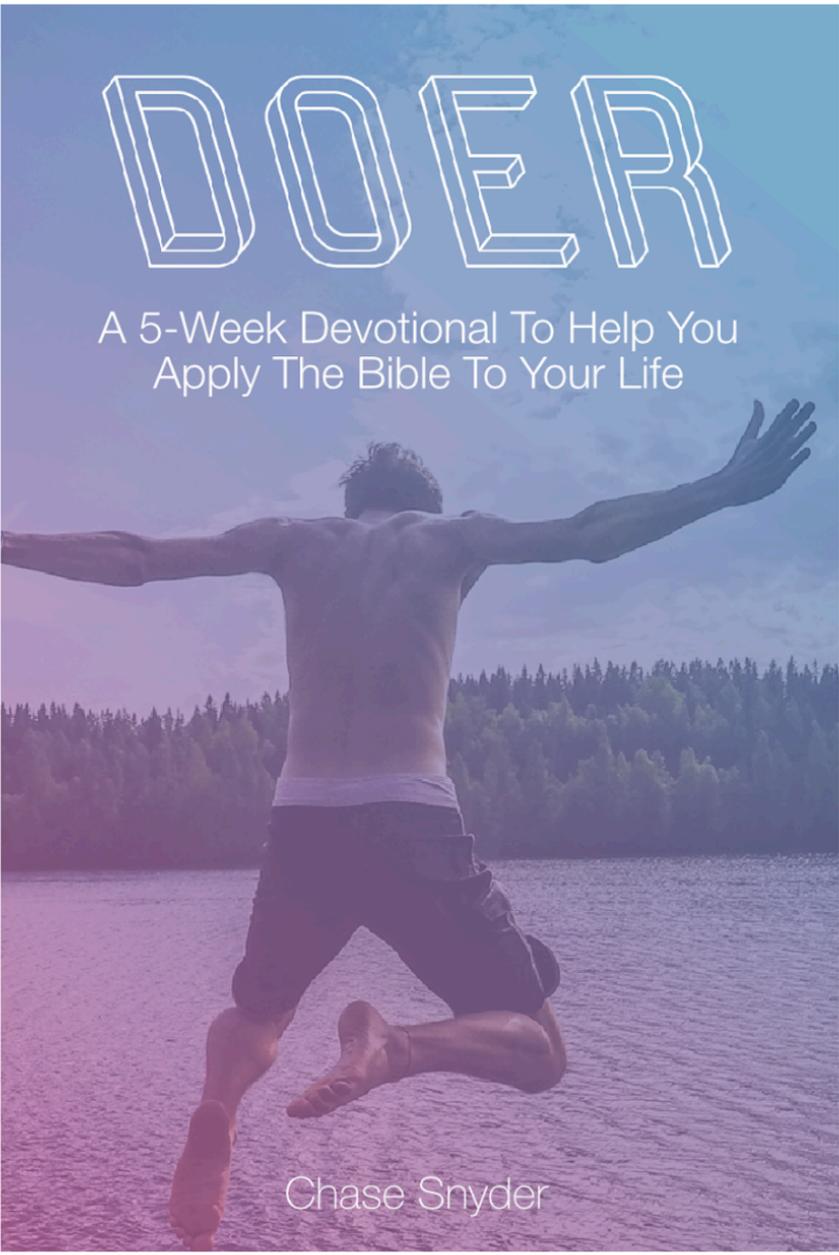


# DOER

A 5-Week Devotional To Help You  
Apply The Bible To Your Life

A shirtless man is captured in mid-air, jumping into a body of water. He has his arms outstretched to the sides and his legs are bent in a jumping motion. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees under a blue sky with light clouds. The overall image has a soft, slightly desaturated color palette.

Chase Snyder

# DOER

A 5-Week Devotional To Help You  
Apply The Bible To Your Life

CHASE SNYDER



Loganville, Georgia

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ISBN:

ISBN-13:

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228 Publishers

Loganville, Georgia

[www.228Publishers.com](http://www.228Publishers.com)

228 Publishers is a Division of Ministry Bubble LLC

228 Publishers President and Publisher: Anne Snyder

Cover and Layout Design: Chase Snyder

Copies of this book are available to churches, schools, and small groups at a significant quantity discount. For details, visit [youthminstudies.com](http://youthminstudies.com).



Youth Min  
**STUDIES**

To my incredible wife and two kids.

Anne, you continually encourage me to live out my faith in practical ways. Tripp and Brooke, I pray that you will always jump in on the adventures that Jesus has for you.

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# Start Here

As I read the Bible I am continually amazed by the faith, trust, and risks people took to follow Jesus. The Bible is filled with stories of *doers* – people who were willing to live in obedience to God.

David faced a giant. Abraham began following without an end destination. Simon Peter and Andrew laid down their nets. The woman at the well shared her story with her community.

How captivating would our faith be if every Christian lived the way that Jesus instructs us to live?

Unfortunately, it seems like the Church is at a crossroads. For the first time in American history, the Church has lost relevancy. Being a Christian is no longer synonymous with being an advocate for Christ – it has become synonymous with being uninformed on major political and social issues and disconnected from the needs of others. Many Christians have become content with creating a subculture that is removed from the very community they were called to impact.

Our culture desperately needs a generation of Jesus followers who are willing to take risks, move outside their comfort zones, and humble themselves to the supremacy of Jesus for the sake of sharing the name and love of Jesus Christ.

*Doer* seeks to move Christians from a static existence to a dynamic life, from the theoretical to the practical.

Following Jesus is not a static existence but a dynamic life that moves a Christian from merely talking about issues to acting on them for the sake of the Gospel. God expects His people to join in on mission with Him.

This book is written to encourage you to stop sitting on the edge of God's mission and jump into the action!

## **Two Ways to Use This Book**

### **On Your Own**

This book will take you on a journey to live out your faith in Jesus. It's best to read it over the course of five weeks without rushing through the book. Each week starts with a session that introduces the topic for that week. The session is a short chapter that ends with a passage to study and questions to answer. Read the session as the first day's study. There are six devotions following the main session, which gives you seven days of content per week. The devotions are short and designed for engagement with God's Word.

### **In a Small Group**

You can also use this book as curriculum for a small group. This is great for creating accountability for yourself. Using this book with others will deepen the impact of the spiritual truths you will learn.

Each week has one main session for you to discuss during your weekly group gathering. Use the passage to study and questions to answer to spark spiritual conversations. The *Doer* video study is available at **[www.youthminstudies.com](http://www.youthminstudies.com)** to supplement your

gathering time together. Group members can complete the daily devotions during the week and discuss them at meetings.

## **Each Daily Devotion Includes**

### **Daily Scripture**

Each daily Scripture relates to the week's main topic. I encourage you to open your Bible and read the verses surrounding the daily Scripture. The more time you spend in the Bible during the next five weeks, the deeper your studies will be. You'll gain an understanding of the context of each verse or passage, and you will see God move in your life.

### **Daily Devotional Reading**

A daily devotional thought follows each Scripture passage. These devotions will get you thinking about the week's topic more deeply. The devotions also cover key concepts from the Scripture provided.

### **Daily Application**

To the right of the daily devotion is a section for you to practice applying that Scripture to your life. To live out your faith, you must apply the Scripture you are reading.

You'll answer the same six questions each day for five weeks. You'll be surprised by how different your answers will be based on the Scripture passages you read.

Even though you will be repeating these questions every day, you will love the results. Your answers will vary

greatly based on the different Scripture passages. And you will learn how to read, interpret, and apply Scripture methodically.

This page has three sections: Upward, Inward, and Outward. Under each section you will find two questions to answer and pray through.

### **Upward** – Focus on God

The Bible is the very Word of God, so the first section deals with looking upward to Him. These questions point you to what the passage shows you about God. You'll notice new characteristics and promises to take hold of.

### **Inward** – Personal Application

There is only one interpretation of Scripture (the actual meaning of the passage or verse). But there can be many applications to your life and situation. As you read the Bible, you'll start to see areas of your heart that need God's grace, love, or correction. These questions ask you what the biblical passage reveals about your habits and heart.

### **Outward** – Live It Out

The last section focuses on your active response to the passage you've studied. Some days you will need to seek out others to serve them or share the Gospel of Jesus. It is possible that you might need to commit to a new habit or have a conversation with a friend. The Outward section focuses on how you will live out what you believe. These questions will direct you to practically apply biblical truth to your life and get you on mission with Jesus.

DOER DOER

DOER DOER

# Week 1

What Is  
A Doer?

DOER DOER

DOER DOER

## **Week 1 – Day 1**

### **What Is A Doer?**

Do you have a friend who can eat anything without gaining weight?

You know the friend – he is the one who has eaten candy and ice cream for a decade without gaining a pound.

Just in case you are one of these people, you need to learn that this behavior is not normal.

There are others who flaunt the fact that they can eat whatever they want, whenever they want, with seemingly no changes to their health. They maintain weight. Diabetes does not set in. And the rest of us envy them.

Most of us mere mortals have to track calories, limit processed food, check sugar and cholesterol levels, and make time to exercise each day. We are the normal ones cursed with watching what we eat.

Wouldn't it be great if all humans were able to have this superpower? Think about it, you could be like your junk food eating friend and live with no consequences. Oh, the chicken fajitas I would consume around the clock!

Unfortunately, there is no radioactive tub of queso that will magically transform us into junk food eating

superheroes. Most people have to follow a strict regimen of healthy eating and exercise to stay physically fit.

## **THE EMPLOYMENT 30**

This was never a problem for me until I graduated college. My life was centered on playing basketball. Almost daily in college I ran two to five miles, participated in a two-hour team practice, practiced fundamentals for a couple of hours by myself, and did resistance training for an hour and a half. And that was just for training. None of that included any time playing in basketball games or being a normal active college student. I had conditioned my body to excel at the college basketball level – even though it was a small college.

Well, that all changes when you graduate – at least it did for me. As soon as I graduated I transitioned into my first full-time ministry position, which meant I went from being active for 40 hours a week to working 75+ hours each week.

I traded a dorm room for a house, a roommate for a wife (the best trade ever), professors for a board of directors, and my free time for to-do lists.

Within a year, I gained thirty pounds.

I didn't like my lack of willpower, but I wasn't uncomfortable enough to change my habits when I noticed I was gaining weight.

I understood my situation, but I lacked motivation to change my habits.

## KNOWLEDGE ≠ MOTIVATION

Those of us who have tried to lose weight know that there are some mental roadblocks that must be overcome before change is possible.

Isn't this true in most areas of our lives?

You know what to do, but you end up doing the wrong thing.

You KNOW the person you are dating is not marriage material, but you can't bring yourself to have an uncomfortable conversation.

You KNOW if you spent fifteen extra minutes a day studying you would be able to pass your class, but you can't seem to stay focused at your desk.

You KNOW God wants you to serve Him, but you feel like this season of life is too busy to add service in your already overloaded schedule.

*Knowledge doesn't automatically translate into life-changing motivation.*

If you are waiting for the latest statistics to drastically change your habits, you may as well go ahead and shut up shop.

In my experience, it seems as if *information* rarely leads to *transformation*.

In most cases, knowledge isn't enough to lead to action. Humans must be engaged mentally, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually before making a healthy decision. Appealing to only one of those areas doesn't lead to change – it leads to frustration.

## **THE CHURCH'S SPIRITUAL WEIGHT PROBLEM**

Sadly, this has been a characteristic of the American Church for several decades. Many churches assume that if they provide information about God and a list of dos and don'ts, people will be motivated to commit to new habits. The instructions we have heard from spiritual leaders for the better half of the twenty-first century have been a checklist to commit to memory.

- Don't get drunk.
- Read your Bible.
- Attend church.
- Don't have premarital sex.

While I agree with these statements, there has been little coaching on *how* to apply these truths and what to do if you step across a boundary.

Call it application. Call it discipline. Call it discipleship.

Whatever you want to label it, we have to admit that our information has not been consistently paired with application.

Many in the Church lament over the Church's perceived irrelevancy. We know the power the Gospel has to change lives – possibly you have been completely transformed by the grace of Jesus. Then, how is it

possible that so many people in the world see today's Church and think its message is irrelevant?

It's simple.

***We have failed to show people how the Gospel applies to their everyday lives.***

This is the current state for many churches and Christians – they know what they should do but have no idea where to start, which step to take first, or where to turn for help. On Sundays, Christians are taking in great spiritual lessons but fail to practically apply them. Each week they take in more Scripture, more promises, more sermons, and more theology, all without allowing it to change their schedules, habits, and mindsets. God never intended for us to hoard the lessons we learn from the Bible. Lessons are to be personally applied and publicly proclaimed.

Some students I serve participate in four or five weekly Bible studies but never step out and serve in their schools or community.

Is this the Gospel that Jesus exemplified?

Don't misunderstand – deeply studying Scripture is not only important, it is essential for your spiritual growth. But if we are not careful, we can create a false sense of spiritual health that only consumes content without inviting Jesus into our daily routines to transform our lives. We stop growing spiritually when we become content with learning about God instead of obeying Him.

*If we neglect to put our faith into practice, we will become spiritually obese.*

## **GOD'S WORD = FOOD**

When I say spiritually obese, I am not talking about your physical weight but your spiritual state. The Bible often refers to itself as spiritual food – the way we stay connected to God and receive sustenance for life.

In Matthew 4 we read about Jesus being tempted by Satan while in the wilderness. Jesus had just completed a forty day fast from food, and Matthew informs us that Jesus was hungry. With Jesus tired, hungry, and worn out, Satan tries to appeal to Jesus' physical needs. In Verse 3 Satan says, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Was Satan lying? Is Jesus able to turn rocks into bread? Of course Jesus can! But knowing that Satan was pressuring Him to shift His focus from God to Satan, Jesus simply answers, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'" (v.4).

1 Peter 2:2 says, "Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word, so that you may grow up into your salvation" (CSB).

Here is the truth for us: *Souls are sustained by consuming God's Word much like our bodies are fueled by food.*

No matter the form or medium being used, when you hear and read the Bible you are taking in spiritual food that will sustain your relationship with God. Sermons are morsels to whet your appetite for Jesus. Daily Bible

studies are meals where you can feast on the promises of God. God's Word is your spiritual food.

## **FILLING YOUR SPIRITUAL STOMACH**

One of the main ways the Bible is described by God and its authors is as food that sustains our souls just as food sustains our physical bodies. If you neglect to eat, you will starve. If you fail to spend time in God's Word, your soul will starve.

Please allow me to play on this imagery for a bit. If the Bible is spiritual food, then there are only three states of spiritual health: spiritually malnourished, spiritually obese, or spiritually fit.

God desires for His people to be doers – followers who are active in practicing the faith they proclaim. Doers are those who are spiritually fit. For the rest of this book, we will talk about how to make this a reality in your life. But for now, let's look at what it means to be spiritually malnourished and obese.

### **SPIRITUALLY MALNOURISHED**

If you do not have a steady diet of God's Word, you are distant from Jesus and starving your soul. You have a spiritual eating disorder.

Your lack of worship, Bible reading, meditation, and closeness with Jesus is starving your soul. In the same way a fish struggles for air when it's on dry land, you are struggling to find spiritual sustenance in your life. You are lacking in interactions with Jesus Himself. You are

missing the Creator of life. And you are searching for something to fill you up.

An indicator that you are spiritually malnourished is your ever-growing hunger for *something*. Because your soul is gasping for air and in need of life, you start grasping for anything that promises hope. You keep trying to fill your life with meaning – hobbies, people, relationships, work – but nothing fills you up. In fact, most things leave you wanting more.

***We try to fill our lives with relationships.***

The girl makes all the right promises to take care of you, to nurture you, and to provide for you emotionally, mentally, and physically, but you end up feeling more alone when the relationship ends.

***We try to fill our lives with purpose.***

Perhaps your accomplishments are your source of identity. But the longer you work, the less you're satisfied. You want to be known by the things that you do, but by the time you get home you're even more drained and frustrated than when you began.

***We fill our lives with sin.***

Maybe it's a specific sin you keep going to, something that no one else knows about. It is your go-to for quick joy and a quick boost. It promises life and fulfillment but leaves you discouraged and lonely.

I think most of us will agree that junk food tastes better than health food. It is hard to pass up a dish covered in cheese or sugar. Just because junk food tastes better doesn't mean that it brings life. In actuality, junk food leads you away from life by supplying your body with

empty calories. The more junk food you eat, the hungrier your body becomes.

Chasing after something other than Jesus to fill your life will lead you further away from life. Sin is the same as eating empty calories – it promises life but leaves you empty.

If you are in a season of chasing after someone or something else to fulfill your life, I want to encourage you that you are not too far gone. Jesus is pursuing you.

Jesus accepts you unlike any earthly relationship can. Jesus fills your life with purpose and vision. Jesus completely covers your sin so you can commune with God.

The first step to spiritual health is filling your life with Jesus. We do this by repenting of our arrogance, submitting to His authority, and committing to walk with Him.

## THE CHURCH'S MUFFIN TOP

While many Christians do experience spiritual malnourishment, I believe that most Christians who sit in church week to week actually are sitting there with spiritual muffin tops.

Stay with me, I know this is a weird image.

Many of God's people take in tons of Bible lessons, listen to hundreds of sermons a year, sit in countless Bible studies, but unfortunately they do **nothing** with the spiritual food they've consumed.

These people are the Church's couch potatoes – consuming content without putting it into practice.

Most Christians in America consume God's Word only to go home and hoard the spiritual blessings they just received. They never put the lessons into practice. They never allow the information to transform their lives. This has caused the Church to become irrelevant in the eyes of the world. Our local congregations are categorized as spiritually lazy, lethargic, unengaged, inactive, and removed from reality.

## **STOP HOARDING – THE COMMUNITY NEEDS WHAT YOU POSSESS**

Millions of people sit in the shadows of our church buildings searching for hope, life, and forgiveness while we sit comfortably.

- You have eternal hope.
- You have unending love.
- You experience complete acceptance.
- You know amazing grace.
- You receive new mercies every day.

But what are you doing with it? Are you simply keeping it for yourself? Are you hoarding the blessings of God while your school, office, family, and community desperately search for the hope you already know?

Our communities need Christians to *practically* live the faith they proclaim. They need to experience the love and mercy of Jesus personified through your life. After all, that is why you are here on this planet – to make

Jesus' name known to the entire world so God's creation can be restored.

## DO WHAT IT SAYS, BRO

This isn't a new problem.

In the Book of James we get a picture of professing Jesus followers and their lack of movement. The men and women who were experiencing the miracles of the early Church had become spiritually obese.

James says these simple words to spur comatose believers to action.

*“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.** Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—**not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.**” – James 1:22-25 (emphasis mine)*

Even for the early Church, the concept of knowing what to do but not practicing it was a real threat. Remember, these are the people who walked alongside the disciples, who had seen the early expansion of the Church, and who had seen people die so that the message of Jesus would continue to spread. In this dynamic community of believers, many had become inactive.

God didn't create the Bible because He enjoys listening to the sound of His own voice; it exists to reveal the glory of King Jesus and guide humanity to live as the family of God.

God spoke to instruct, inform, and commission humanity. He informs us that we are loved, there is hope, and redemption is possible through the sacrifice of Jesus. He instructs us to live by faith, make disciples, and spread the forgiveness we have found in Jesus.

The Bible is full of instructions and encouragements to live as redeemed people so that the nations will know the love and name of Jesus.

*“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” – Matthew 22:37-39*

*“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

*“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our ‘God is a consuming fire.’” – Hebrews 12:28-29*

Being a doer doesn't mean you have to surrender to full-time ministry or serve overseas as a missionary. If God calls you to that, then do it! But don't miss the very first step of being a doer – surrendering to God's universal

commands that are laid out in Scripture. Then will you be sensitive to the more specific call on your life and can obey as He directs you.

## **JESUS' DISCIPLES ARE DOERS**

God expects us to respond to His Word. Simply put, we are to do what the Bible says.

Jesus said, “You are my friends if you do what I command” (John 15:14).

It is absurd, and straight up sinful, to read the Bible and refuse to act on its words. We should be reminded that the God who uses common people to bring about uncommon things is the God who is alive and present in us.

***Following Jesus is not a static existence but a dynamic life that moves a Christian from merely talking about issues to acting on them for the sake of the Gospel.***

Being a doer isn't reserved for the theologically trained, for full-time pastors, or for people with tons of free time – this is the expectation and invitation for every follower of Jesus.

- Every believer should be on mission with Jesus.
- Every believer should put God's Word into practice.
- Every believer should share their faith in Jesus with non-believers.
- Every believer should disciple other believers.

God's redemptive plan is your life's purpose.

Regardless of your profession or the season of life you are in, your purpose is to share the Gospel of Jesus.

But there is a caveat to all of this. You have to actually know what the Bible says, and you have to be willing to know it in context. Doers are people who trust Scripture, engage Scripture, and memorize Scripture. Followers of Jesus must make the study of Scripture a daily discipline. How will you follow God's Word if you never read it?

God's Word fuels and energizes us to live a life on mission with Jesus, and it must be correctly handled with interpretation and application. My goal is to address how Jesus followers can, after corporate and personal Bible studies, correctly apply God's Word to their day-to-day lives. I do not want to state an issue without being part of the solution. It is my aim to walk you through the makeup of a doer – a true disciple and follower of Jesus.

## **THE MAKEUP OF A DOER**

### ***Growing***

Doers are growing in their faith. You can't apply what you don't know. You can't follow if you haven't submitted to a leader. This is a one-time moment of faith for salvation and daily denial of self to pick up your cross and follow Jesus.

### ***Trusting***

Doers are people who trust that God will be faithful to His Word. They are willing to make the jump from theoretical spiritual knowledge to practical action. They are willing to

learn from experiences because they know that God will provide for the journey.

### ***Humble***

Pride tells us that we know best, but doers have to submit to God's authority and His plans – whatever that looks like and whatever the challenges. Doers understand that they are powerless and in need of Jesus' wisdom, guidance, and provision. Being a doer gets us off the throne of our pride and forces us to rely on Jesus.

### ***Invested***

Somewhere along the way, Christians have believed a lie that their primary calling is to protect themselves and their families. But this isn't what Jesus has called us to! How can we remain inactive knowing the terrible things going on in the world, in our country, and even in our own cities? We assuage our guilt at our own inaction by listing excuses (we are too young, inexperienced, and so on) and by bringing awareness to causes on social media. But Christians are called to be active, involved, and invested at every level (from their own families to their communities and out into the world) for the sake of the Gospel. Jesus didn't take a comfortable or safe route to providing for us, and He expects Christians to follow that example.

### ***Proactive***

Overanalyzing keeps Christians busy with tasks that will never transform communities. Doers do not wait for the perfect conditions – they jump into God's plan and figure out how He has gifted them to make an impact on the world.

## **Gritty**

Non-Christians are waiting to see who will step out and take a stand in a passive culture. They are used to Christians who talk a big game in church but resist acting upon it outside of the church bubble. Doers are willing to be a spark to ignite movement, discipleship, and mission in the hearts of their churches. They do this through persevering and continuing to do what the Bible says even if no one else is immediately joining them.

## **IT'S YOUR MOVE**

Are you spiritually malnourished, obese, or fit? Is there anything that this first chapter has sparked in you? Has the Holy Spirit brought something to your mind already that you have not acted upon despite knowing God calls you to it in His Word?

*What are you going to do about it?*

It's my earnest prayer that this book would be a wake-up call to you individually and that you would become a doer that sparks action in other Christians too!

## **Now What?**

**Passage to Study:** James 1:22-25

### **Questions:**

- Are you a Christian? Reflect on your salvation story. What led you to an understanding that you needed the forgiveness Jesus offers?
- How has your life changed (or not changed)?
- Would you say that you are more of a listener or a doer when it comes to God's Word?

## Week 1 – Day 2

*“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.**” – James 1:22*

This wonderfully simple verse involves an enormous assumption. That assumption is that you are actively reading and listening to the Word of God. The Bible is referenced throughout as a source of spiritual food. In Matthew 4:4, Jesus Himself even says that man cannot live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Your soul is sustained by consuming God’s Word, much like your body is fueled by food.

One of the main themes that you will see repeated in this devotional is the idea of being spiritually fit. Just as any person who desires to be physically fit must eat healthy food and exercise regularly, any Christian who desires to be spiritually fit must take in spiritually nourishing food and exercise spiritual disciplines regularly.

Many of us are blissfully unaware that we gorge ourselves on the sweetness of Jesus’ grace, love, and forgiveness but never make the effort to extend those to the people around us who are spiritually starving.

People are in desperate need of the saving grace of Jesus. Will you extend that grace to them before they try to fill their lives with something else?

## **Week 1 – Day 2 Applied**

### **Upward – Focus on God**

What does today's passage tell you about God's character, promises, plans, or heart?

What attitude or emotion should that spark in you?

### **Inward – Personal Application**

What does this passage reveal about your habits, attitude, and heart?

Is there an attitude you need to change, action you need to take, or sin you need to turn from?

### **Outward – Live It Out**

What is the next step you must take to live out the truth of today's passage?

When and how will you take that step?

## Week 1 – Day 3

*“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.” – 1 Peter 2:2*

Milk is the only food that a newborn baby can digest.

Newborns are not able to drink water. Newborns are not able to eat baby food. Newborns are not able to enjoy tacos.

Why? Because a baby can only be sustained by his mother’s milk.

Peter’s imagery points to the realization that followers of Jesus are sustained by Jesus. His perfect characteristics are your lifeline. His energy is your energy. His life is your life.

Craving and taking in spiritual milk – which is God’s Word – is the only way to grow spiritually.

Spiritual growth isn’t rocket science. It is about feeding on the Word of God. We digest passages of the Bible daily because they point us to the insurmountable grace found in Jesus Christ.

If you neglect to eat food, you will starve. If you fail to spend time reading God’s Word, your soul will feel empty. It will long to be filled with Jesus’ forgiveness and grace, and only God’s Word can fill the void.

Do you crave God’s Word and find that it helps you grow spiritually?

## **Week 1 – Day 3 Applied**

### **Upward – Focus on God**

What does today's passage tell you about God's character, promises, plans, or heart?

What attitude or emotion should that spark in you?

### **Inward – Personal Application**

What does this passage reveal about your habits, attitude, and heart?

Is there an attitude you need to change, action you need to take, or sin you need to turn from?

### **Outward – Live It Out**

What is the next step you must take to live out the truth of today's passage?

When and how will you take that step?

Thanks for checking  
out the first week of *Doer!*

To purchase a copy or to see  
other available resources, visit  
[www.chasesnyder.blog/doer](http://www.chasesnyder.blog/doer).

## About the Author

Chase Snyder is a Tennessee native living in Metro Atlanta, where he serves as a student pastor at FBC Loganville. While in Tennessee, he served at a few non-profits, including a Christian camp. There, he served more than 60,000 students and adults and ate approximately 200,000 hot dogs.

He is the founder of Ministry Bubble LLC, a ministry that produces books, blogs, and studies to help people apply the Bible to their daily lives.

Chase and his wife Anne have two kids, Tripp and Brooke. Chase loves camping, reading, kayaking, playing Go Fish with his kids, Bigfoot conspiracies, and Chemex coffee.

### Connect with Chase

**Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram:** @ChaseSnyder12

**YouTube:** /ChaseSnyder12

**Blog:** [www.ChaseSnyder.blog](http://www.ChaseSnyder.blog)

**Website:** [www.MinistryBubble.com](http://www.MinistryBubble.com)