

Be a Doer Matthew Neumann – 06/04/2023

Have you ever tried to discern what God's call is in your life? Could you claim with certainty that you understand His will for your life? Do you know what He wants you to be doing right now?

This morning, I'd like us to look at a portion of scripture in which we are clearly told what God has asked us to accomplish.

If we can follow the instructions in this passage, I believe that the rest of the particulars of walking into our ministry calling or exercising our spiritual gifts will fall into place.

James 1:22-25 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

Today we're going to answer three simple questions?

- What am I supposed to do?
- How do I accomplish it?
- What is the result/reward of "doing"?

What am I supposed to do?

The apostle James instructs us to be doers of the word rather than just hearers.

We are all aware that it is possible to hear instructions but not follow them. Knowing and doing are not the same thing.

Some people deceive themselves into thinking that knowing the word and being able to articulate it is all that matters. However, James wants us to recognize that it is the acting that provides evidence of true understanding.

Hearing the word, reading the word, and delving deeply into the word but failing to act on it is like to a man studying himself in the mirror and then walking away forgetting what he looked like.

We are called to be doers, not simply hearers of God's word. We are blessed only when we do what we have been plainly commanded to do.

James 1:22 "be doers of the word, and not hearers only"

We often question why God hasn't revealed our "purpose" to us. We're searching for a dream, a sign, or something to tell us what we should be doing.

It's as if we're waiting for God to confirm what we want to accomplish. But God says, "Just do what I say."

In verse 19 James instructs us to "be quick to hear and slow to speak". So, let us begin by paying attention to what God's word instructs us to do and doing it.

Throw out the garbage

James 1:21a "put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness..."

Could it be that the things of our flesh that we aren't "putting away" are causing us to focus on our own desires rather than just being doers of the word?

Receive the word with meekness

James 1:21b and receive with meekness the implanted word."

James urges us to accept the word with humility.

Meekness – being humble and patient, or being quiet in nature.

When we act like God is there to give us everything we want, we put ourselves above Him. God is not there to serve us. Instead, we exist to serve Him. "Not my will, but His be done" should be our motto in life.

1 Peter 5:6 (AMP) Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God [set aside self-righteous pride], so that He may exalt you [to a place of honor in His service] at the appropriate time

I'll ask you this because I have to ask myself this question all the time: Are you really giving yourself over to God's will? Or are you telling God to do what you want?

Our goal isn't to make God do what we want, but to find out what He wants us to do and then do it.

If we're not doing... then all we're just hearing. What does this Bible verse say about people who only hear? They deceive themselves.

They deceive themselves to think that the depth of their knowledge is all that matters. To truly know something is to live it out.

How do I accomplish it? How do I live out the word?

James 1:25 “But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

What (or really who) is the perfect law? Jesus!

The perfect law of liberty is the gospel concerning Jesus. It is the declaration of salvation through Christ alone.

Perfect liberty can only be found through Jesus. Those who come to Christ now have freedom from sin. Those who have come to Jesus have also received the indwelling presence of the Holy.

The first thing the Holy Spirit did in our life was to awaken us to the reality of our sins

John 16:7-8a (NLT) But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin...

He also opened our eyes to the truth of who Jesus was, The Savior of our soul. He helped us to see into the perfect law of liberty.

John 16:13a (NLT) When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.

The Holy Spirit not only leads us to Christ but also empowers us to be doers of the word.

Galatians 5:16 (NLT) So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

Without the Holy Spirit we were unable to come to Christ and we would be unable to be doers of the word.

The Holy Spirit continues to help us understand what the Bible says. Teaching us what to do and showing us how to do it. Because of the Holy Spirit, we are able to do what the Bible says.

The commands of Christ would be unachievable without the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT) But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

God's will is that we be doers of the word! We can accomplish what he says because we have looked into the perfect law of liberty, been born again, and experienced the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence.

Let us not be like the man who looks in the mirror and then walks away forgetting what he looked like. Let's not simply hear the truth about Jesus and who we are in him and walk through life living like we don't know Him.

Let's summarize where we are thus far. If you've ever wondered what God's will is for your life... the simple response is, to be a doer of the word.

Does this imply that he doesn't care where you go to school? Or what kind of work will you be doing? Of course, that is not the case. He loves and cares for you. However, his first priority is to make you more like Jesus.

God will make clear to you in time what else he wants you to do (aka your purpose). But why waste time pondering what God the secret will of God is for our life and not actually do what he plainly commands us to do.

What is the result/reward of "doing"?

James 1:25 "He will be blessed in his doing"

When we move from simply hearing the word to doing the word

- We shall have a united and powerful church
- Unbelievers will repent.
- God's power is visible in his church (Healings, salvations, and miracles)

For far too long, the so many people in church have remained on the periphery.

God isn't simply inviting you to come to church on Sundays and sit through a service. He has given you a special mission in life.

I'm here to inform you that you shouldn't wait for God to decide what to study or what job to choose. I'm not suggesting that you go renegade and do whatever you want. Just start by being a doer of the word.

Throw out the garbage, receive the word with meekness, make disciples, love God and others and bear good fruit.

To do this perseverance is also required.

Paul compares the church in Corinth to a race in his letter to them. He instructs us to "run so that you may receive the prize." "Do not run aimlessly, but rather discipline yourself" (1 Corinth 9:24).

I'd like to take a moment to speak to people who have never surrendered their life to Jesus.

The word or message concerning Christ has the power to save your soul. If you surrender Jesus, to the perfect law of liberty you will be saved.