

Be Doers of the Word

The Scriptures place a high degree of importance upon hearing the word of God. Even so, merely hearing God's word will not advance one's spiritual wellbeing at all. To reap the benefits of God's word, we must act in compliance with the message of Scripture.

The Lord ended His greatest sermon with the most important message of that sermon, which was a call to action. In Matthew 7:24-27, He said,

²⁴"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell – and great was its fall."

Just as the Lord's words from this sermon still stand, so also does His call to action. We have heard the words of Jesus; now will we be wise or foolish? Will we act on His words, or will we be hearers only?

No amount of reading, studying, or listening to God's word will ever be effective for a person who will not act on it. Consider God's words to the prophet in Ezekiel 33:30-33:

³⁰"But as for you, son of man, your fellow citizens who talk about you by the walls and in the doorways of the houses, speak to one another, each to his brother, saying, 'Come now and hear what the message is which comes forth from the LORD.' ³¹They come to you as people come, and sit before you as My people and hear your words, but they do not do them, for they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth, and their heart goes after their gain. ³²Behold, you are to them like a sensual song by one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; for they hear your words but they do not practice them. ³³So when it comes to pass – as surely it will – then they will know that a prophet has been in their midst."

These Jews certainly had a zeal for hearing Ezekiel preach the word of God, but they had no zeal for acting on that word. Ezekiel's preaching and God's word were merely an attraction and a form of entertainment to them. Is this what they are for us?

Those who feel a sense of accomplishment by merely hearing God's word are self-deceived. James 1:22-25 says,

²²But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. ²⁵But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

Again, it was at the end of the Sermon on the Mount when Jesus emphasized the importance of actions over words. Consider the Lord's words in Matthew 7:21-23:

²¹"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ²²Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

Be Doers of the Word

The words “Lord, Lord” will be empty without the appropriate actions to give them substance. That action is the doing of the will of God. Arbitrary, self-determined action is insufficient. We must act according to the will of God as revealed by His word.

Therefore, let us be certain to be people of action, and let those actions be determined by the word of God.

John 13:17 – “If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”