



Doers of the Work

BECKY COMBEE

There is an interesting passage of Scripture in the book of James that counsels us to be doers of the Word.¹ A doer of the Word is one who hears God's Word and obeys its principles. I collect recipes, but I do not use all of them. I like reading them, determining their ingredients, and deciding if we would enjoy them. Yet often, I put them in a big bowl in my kitchen with a quick, "I'll do that sometime." I'm not really a doer of the words.

My husband, Wayne, refinished furniture for many years. When a customer brought him a piece of furniture, they were expecting action. They did not want to hear him say, "I'll get to that eventually." Wayne would never schedule the delivery of furniture until he was free to work on it. His diligence was so obvious that one customer advised another to have their money ready. A very quick turnaround could be expected. He was more than a doer of his WORD. He was a doer of the WORK.

God has given us His Word to ground our hearts in His will – to help us grow up in Him. As we learn the height, the depth, and the width of His great commission, we are prepared to draw from the Holy Spirit for a plan of action. My plan, his

plan, your plan, our plan will all be different, but underneath each concept and directive is the Word of God and the mighty power of His Spirit.

The Lord orders our footsteps.² He orchestrates His plan for our life by His Spirit. However, a plan of action without a foundation in the laws and principles of God's Word, is like a seamstress who has a sewing machine but no pattern, fabric, thread or buttons. It is like a builder who has many tools but no architectural drawing or

*We must be hearers of
God's Word AND doers.*

government permit. The builder needs the rendering from the architect. Before he proceeds with the WORK, he must have a WORD from the governing authorities.

The directives that govern the life of every Christian are defined in the Scriptures, particularly the New Testament and the epistles. Here the pattern that governs our work is outlined and explained. Our success depends on the solid foundation of His Word that is hidden in our heart.

We must be hearers of God's Word AND doers. A hearer constantly studies the Scriptures and holds fast to its principles. He meditates in the

(Continued from "Doers of the Work")

WORD of God day and night,³ so that he can adhere to its truth as he does the WORK of God. Before he can be a doer of the WORK, he must be a doer of the WORD.⁴

The apostle Paul instructed Timothy to study to show himself approved unto God. As he studied God's WORD, he would become a WORKMAN who was unashamed of his WORK. It is obvious that he was a student before he was a WORKMAN. The success of his work depended on how he applied what he had learned to the ministry God had assigned to him.⁵



We must be continual students of God's Word. Yet, we are not waiting until we "know it all" before we become workman. As we are learning, we act and respond. In time, our understanding increases, and the magnitude of our responsibility grows larger. Simply understood, this means we hear, and we do. Then, we hear more, and we do more.

Wayne learned carpentry by working with his father. His extraordinary gift began as a child listening to the voice of his father. Every day we must listen to God, our Father. He teaches us and directs us by His Spirit. The Holy Spirit opens our hearts to Godly wisdom and orders our steps.

Our steps are sure and certain because God is our helper. He enables us to daily walk in His plan and to take giant leaps of faith. When we obey Him, we lay the foundation for increase and blessing. The epistle of James assures us that a doer of the work will be "blessed in his deed."⁴

Start today! Study to show yourself approved unto God! Be doers of the Word, not hearers only! Do it! You will have no regrets!

The Big Turn Off

SUZANNE D. WILLIAMS

I despair of a world where black becomes white and white becomes gray. Where all it takes to make what used to be wrong, correct is a few years' time and the persuasion of men.

Where fear and depression are allowed to run rampant, celebrated even. Where deception and falsehood are okay as long as that's what you believe.

I want a line in the sand, a barrier I cannot cross, a book of rules that keep me from straying. I want to know that no matter what I do, A and B will still be A and B and not C or D or E or F.

I want nothing to shift from its ordered place and everything to be fixed and solid. Concrete. Definite. Precise.

I want to be able to do something wrong and it actually BE wrong, not simply my opinion of how things ought to go. And I want Someone Higher than me to pull me aside and say, "Whoa. Stop that. Now, say you're sorry." And to feel relief knowing I'm on the right path now because there IS a right path.

It doesn't really matter what the forces around me say about this age, this time, the God I serve. Because He was and is and is to come. He's the same, unchanging, and nothing they do or say or feel or write or alter or shift will move Him.

He's unshakeable. Inflexible. Unwavering. Abiding. Lasting. Permanent.

He's bigger than you or me or the United States or North America or the Atlantic Ocean. He's above all and in all and through all. He created it all, and He'll out last it all.

Think of that next time you turn on your TV and some yahoo in a business suit tells you how things are going to be from now on. And I have a suggestion. Then turn it off, and meditate instead on things that are lovely and of good report.⁶

You'll feel better.

¹Jas 1:22 ²Ps 37:23 ³Ps 1:2 ⁴Jas 1:25 ⁵Ti 2:15 ⁶Php 3:9