

BE A DOER Becky Combee

Raised in church music, I remember a chorus we used to sing that said, "Everybody talkin' about love's not livin' it." How true! Sometimes, we are great hearers but not doers.¹ Our intentions are good, but our follow through is a little lax. We are forgetful.

Before His death, Jesus instructed His disciples about the work of the Holy Spirit. He told them that the Holy Spirit would come to live in them, and He would teach them and bring all things to their remembrance. We are so grateful that God, the Holy Spirit helps us remember. What a precious gift He is!²

The Holy Spirit is also our guide into truth.³ The gospel of John maps out the road to truth when Jesus says, *"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*⁴ The word "continue" means "to abide for any time indefinitely," and "to last, be durable, endure, be permanent." When we continue, we "persevere" and are "steadfast."⁵ If we remain in the Word of God and make it a permanent part of our lives, we will find freedom, success, and blessing. Because we continually hear the Word of God, we are prepared to be a doer.

The importance of continually hearing God's Word is emphasized in Psalm 1. Here, the psalmist counsels us to meditate in the Word, day and night. This means that God's Word is always on our mind. Daily, we read and ponder its truths, surrendering our will in obedience to God's instructions. We delight to hear and meditate on

WE'VE GOT HIM ALL WRONG Suzanne D. Williams

We've got Him all wrong.

He's not in the earthquake. He's not in the fire, although He is an all-consuming fire.⁹ He can be a wind,¹⁰ but don't focus on the wind. He's not in those loud, external things.

He's a gentle whisper at five o'clock in the morning.¹¹ He's the warmth of the sunrise at seven. He's the dew on the grass that rose overnight.

He can raise the dead. Duh, He has raised the dead. He defeated death, hell, and the grave.¹² He's eternal and all-powerful and ... AWESOME. But when you're seeking for Him, you'll hear Him calling in a way you least expect.

He likes it that way. He likes to be three words in your ear that made you stop and ask, "Where'd that come from?" He loves to make His children lean in and listen. He adores spending time with you but would rather it happen because you were seeking.

We've got Him all wrong. He can be an inferno. He chooses not to. He would rather you shut your head off and get away from the cacophony repeating in your brain, He'd like to hear you say, "Here I am. What would you like to speak about today?" He will answer, and He will surprise you. You sit expectant for it, have His words all planned out. Yet what He says is never what you've selected and often what you would rather ignore.

We've had Him all wrong. He's not fickle. Here today, gone tomorrow. On again. Off again. Over here but, "Oops, I meant to be over there." the Word. It is not drudgery. It is never tiresome to do something for someone we love. Any inconvenience, financial responsibility, or length of time does not prevent us from putting our heart into blessing them. It is a pleasurable effort because they are valuable to us.

Nothing is more valuable to us than our great and mighty God. Our love for Him and His great redemptive plan draw us to His Word. We read His Word not simply to increase in knowledge, but to fulfil our desire to serve Him. We want more than great minds. We want to be available to Him every moment of every day.

In Psalm 1, the psalmist compares our life to a fruit-bearing tree planted by rivers of water. God's Word is the water for our spirit, soul, and body. The apostle Paul confirms this when he writes that we are washed with the water of God's Word.⁶ When we unite our hearts with the water of God's Word, we will bear fruit. We will prosper.

Without water, a tree will wither. Without the

(Continued from "We've Got Him All Wrong")

He's not inconsistent. One minute up, the next minute down. Unsure of himself. Undecided. In fact, He does not change. He has no variableness.¹³

Not a lack of variety. Oh no, just look at what He created. The God who designed the giraffe also made the hummingbird. He created deserts and swamps. Mountains in order to have valleys. He designed the earth so that He could place man on it. Not as an afterthought but as His entire purpose. He determined to do it and so caused it all to become.

He is I AM.¹⁴ He is life. He is light. And He is continual in it. He never ends, never stops, never ceases. He does not give up. And does not make mistakes. What He's done, He did the way He knew would work the best for it, so that He would be seen as the Source.

We've had it all wrong. He isn't playing lotto. Spin the wheel and these are selected, a special word for them but not for those. He's not a clique, where one earns a higher status than another.

In Him, in fact, there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, bond nor free. All He's looking for is for us to be listening, listening closely and with a water of God's Word, we will also wither. We can become depressed, confused, or overcome by life's choices.

What is our solution? Jesus gave us the answer when He said, *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*⁷ This rest is a time of refreshing that strengthens us to work in harmony with God. The anointing of God's Spirit floods our heart and prepares us for continued faithful service.

Oh, how important the Word of God and the Spirit of God is to us. Together they cause us to mature in knowledge and service. As we yield to God, who speaks to us by His Spirit, we continually bear fruit. We become doers, perfecting the will of God through our obedience to His commands. Jesus said, *"If a man love me, he will keep my words."*⁸ Can we keep His Word if do not comprehend it? Can we comprehend it if we do not read it?

Read God's Word daily! Listen to the Holy Spirit as He teaches and guides you. Be a doer – a faithful servant of God – and be blessed!

heart of obedience and humility. He's seeking someone not self-serving, who will lay down their cross and pick up His.

We've had it all wrong. We thought we could go on without Him. We have a choice. We can deny Him. We can turn our backs. We can close our eyes and refuse to see His face, close our ears and never hear His voice. But the God of all who made the earth we stand on, is God of all even when we are deaf and blind to all that He is.

And HE IS, which is my point. HE IS, and because HE IS, so are we, and without Him in us then we, His creation, ARE not. He already WAS before the beginning. He created all time. That next minute we are living is because He made it that way.

We got it all wrong. He got it all right.

And even when the clouds are thick and the earth erupts and the people on it revolt against Him, He remains the same, gentle Voice, His hand extended, His amazing love, still waiting for us, as deep as it is wide, stained forever with the blood of Christ.

We've had it all wrong. He's not in the pew. He's not in the steeple. He's not on the stage. He's not in the building. He lives in the people.