

Be Doers of the Word By Trey Sullins

Life is full of planners. People who have ideas for this or that and plan to do all these great things. But many times, these people remain planners. They never quite get to the part where they become doers. As Christians we must understand the importance of being doers so that we will be proper in the eyes of God.

Being a doer requires action. A doer is someone who sees what God has said and then applies that in their lives. Over the years we have all seen those people who point out all the problems that need to be fixed and work that needs to be done, but then when the time comes to do the work they are nowhere to be found. James 1:22 says “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” The hearer is only deceiving themselves because they believe and think to be right, but by taking no action they are not right! Think about the parable of the wise man and the foolish man in Luke 6:46-49. Both of these men had to do something. If the wise man drew up great plans for a strong house on a solid rock foundation and then sat back and admired his drawings what would happen? The storm and the floods would sweep him away! There must be action for us to be righteous.

Being a doer requires actions which are according to God’s commands. Simply choosing a few good things to do is not enough for God. James 2:10 says, “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” Therefore, it is necessary to do all that God requires of us. We have no right to pick and choose what commands we will obey. This is the opening point made by Jesus before He explains the parable of the foolish man and the wise man in Luke 6:48-49. In Luke 6:46 Jesus says, “But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?” These people were pretending to be righteous while picking what things they wanted to obey. The parallel in Matthew 7:22 shows that they were actually doing some works, but they still were not doing all that God wanted. Again, consider the wise man and the foolish man. The foolish man chose not to build his house in the right manner by not doing all the right steps for a strong house. The result was his house fell. In order to be righteous, we must choose to do all which God commands.

Being a doer requires remembering that we will be judged based upon our actions. What is it that motivates us to remain faithful doers? James 2:12 says, “So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.” In the context James is dealing the application side of being a good doer of the word. Verse twelve says that we are to be doers “as those who will be judged.” In other words, think about how God is going to judge your actions and then act accordingly! If the foolish man from Luke 6:49 had stopped and thought about the destruction he was going to face, then he certainly would have chosen different actions. The righteous person understands God’s punishment of the wicked then chooses to be right.

The proper Christians are not like the planner or the foolish man. Instead, they are the doers and like the wise man. They choose to take actions which are according to God’s commands while knowing the judgments of God. Our challenge is to be like the servant of the ten talents in Matthew 25:20. He was a faithful doer and in the end was rewarded for his righteous actions. “His lord said

to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord" (Matthew 25:21).