

DOING OR KNOWING

This subject could be summarized in James 1:22, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

We all understand the importance of knowing the truth. "The truth will set you free," and "my people perish for the lack of knowledge," but we also understand, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine..."

We need to know the Bible. We need to study to show ourselves "approved" while laboring "more abundantly than they all." (I Corinthians 15:10)

The book of James pushes the issue mentioning Rahab and Abraham being justified by works and not faith. (Do not get thrown off into justification by works or faith, which is another subject.) Works matter!

If you are to have any real understanding of the Scriptures, you, of necessity, will need to be a "doer."

John 7:17 "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."

A close relationship with the Lord is based upon doing.

Matthew 12:50 "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Stability or ruin in life is not based upon hearing or knowing, but upon doing the commands of God.

Matthew 7:24 "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:"

vs. 25 "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."

What made the difference?
Doing the commandments, or not knowing or hearing them.



Picture on the left: One of our teens leads the bus meeting in a song before they all go out visiting their bus routes and soul winning.

The fulfillment of the great commission is not to get people saved, but to teach them to be doers of the Word.

Matthew 28:20 "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Without the "doing," a person may be saved, but he is far from obedient or mature.

Picture to the right: Here are two of my former teens, now in Bible college; both are bus workers, good preachers, and plan to serve the Lord in the ministry. "Knowledge puffeth up," but bus work and preaching will keep you humble.



There are many trends in today's religious movements that are study based. Preachers are trying to get people to study. In fact, if you can communicate the facts in a manner people enjoy hearing, you will find yourself leading great study groups or even pastoring. Somehow, we miss checking up on these "teachers" to see if their lives measure up to their lessons.

"To know" is vain unless it affects the life and action.

Many preachers spend their ministries trying to teach the Bible while avoiding application of the truths that will, in effect, change in the life of the listener. I believe they fear losing their audiences. When John the Baptist was approached by educated religious leaders, his response was simple: "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:" (Matthew 3:8) He did not care about losing his audience, and he insisted that the life of the preacher back up his profession.

These men knew much Bible, but their lives did not reflect the truths they had learned. Jesus condemned religious leaders, yet urged the common man to do what those leaders said, but not to follow their example of living.

Matthew 23:1 "Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,"

vs. 2 "Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:"

vs. 3 "All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: **for they say, and do not.**"

These fraudulent ministers talked much, but lived little. What was that our Lord said? **"...for they say, and do not."** The common man was encouraged to follow the instruction of these men, and to be doers of the Bible truths they heard taught. The teachers though, had no example of a life to back up their words.



*Of this random group visiting
our home during the
Christmas holidays, 24 have
jobs in our church, most are
teachers and soul winners.
Everyone should be urged to be
"doers."*

David's great plea was not to know God's will, but to do it.
Psalm 143:10, **"Teach me to do thy will..."**

This is no random or rare lesson, it is one that is taught all through the Bible.

Luke 6:46 "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

Knowledge brings with it great accountability. If we know something, God expects us to do something about it.

Luke 12:47 "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes."

vs. 48 "But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

It is always the doing of truth that changes lives, not the knowing of truth.

Pastors, teachers, leaders, get out of your study and go visit people. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27)



Pictured to the left is the ordination of one of our young men, I noticed that three of these preachers and the two wives present were all former FBC teens. They learned to be "doers."

There is a reason we, at Faith Baptist Church, have enjoyed such great, long-term success among our teens: they are taught to be doers both in soul winning twice a week and also in financial giving, and in serving at home, church, and bus ministry (our entire bus ministry is run by teenagers with appropriate adult leadership).

Study. 2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Study much, lest we find ourselves ashamed.

Without the consistent application of Bible truths in our daily lives, we will create arrogant Pharisees.

Our churches are being ruined by staff members who lead others to do what the leader has long since stopped doing. Our churches are being depleted of the Holy Spirit's blessing because we have people such as deacons who can not remember the last time they knocked on a door, yet have no mercy or patience with their wives or children. Paul summarized his training of the Philippian people with this comment: "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, **do**: and the God of peace shall be with you." (Philippians 4:9)

What you have seen and heard and learned.... DO!

What is the crime of the church? Being hearers and not doers.

James 1:22 "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

What great error is happening in the pulpits of America? Teaching facts, telling Bible stories, giving our people information, yet never applying it in such a way so as to see changed lives -- failing to transform our members into "doers."

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