

Be A Doer Of The Word – Not A Hearer Only

By Mary McCave

James 1:22-25 But prove yourselves doers of the word; and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But 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.

We must be doers and set an example of living God's Word. So many people in the world around us, and I am sure you have met them, say they believe in God; but lack the will to actually do and act upon God's Word. People can talk a good talk, but how sad their life doesn't show any blessings.

If we are to witness to people God's Word, our lives are to be the example for them to see. They observe our behavior whether we think so or not. Our conduct truly sends an immense message to people of whether we just talk the talk or do we walk the talk. These verses in James are so clear that if we are hearers only and not doers, we really delude ourselves with wrong thinking. It clearly states if we are doers and not hearers only, we surely will be blessed in whatever we do. What a great promise in these verses in James.

Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Jesus says people are to see our good works! We aren't to just know the Word of God and hide it within ourselves, but to be shining examples to people so that they too may glorify God.

Romans 2:13 for *it is* not the hearers of the Law *who* are just before God, but the does of the Law will be justified.

We should all want to be justified before God. We must clearly be doing God's Law; His Word. There is no debate. Either we are doing and practicing the commandments or we are not.

Titus 1:15,16, 2:7, 3:8 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed. In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, *with* purity in doctrine, dignified. This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

We are to be the example, to engage our lives so people may see our behavior as living examples. That is so profitable for people to see and learn so that they too may also walk in His Word and reconcile people back to God so they too may be blessed and glorify God.

You know, you can say you don't know enough, you have fear of doing something wrong, or you can be downright prideful and think you can walk any which way you want.

But, the truth is you can! We have a great example in God's Word of following in the steps of Christ. Jesus, while on this earth, was a living example and showing everyone that they too can walk in the light of God's Word. He was an example to everyday ordinary people. You don't need a degree to follow his steps, you don't need to know everything, and certainly you can let your pride stop you. Jesus made it very clear in one of the most amazing records of following his example is at the last supper.

John 13:3-15 *Jesus*, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. So He came to Simon Peter, He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." Peter said to Him, never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, *then wash* not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all *of you*." For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said "Not all of you are clean." So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined *at the table* again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for *so* I am. If then, the Lord and Teacher, washed your feet you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you;"

What an awesome record! Jesus showed by example what it means to wash each other's feet. We don't literally wash feet, but the example is whether you are the leader or not, we are to serve God's Word to others by example. People should see the living Word of God in us by our actions, by our conduct, by our obedience to do the commandments of God's Word, to follow in Jesus' steps. Jesus served, he loved, he prayed, he encouraged, he taught them by example. They saw the living Word of God by his actions.

Now he told them, do as I did! Now it's your turn to be the example just like Jesus said to them.

Matthew 7:24-27 "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. And 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. Everyone 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. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell-and great was its fall."

When we hear the Word and act upon the words of Jesus, we won't fall. Our actions will solidify our lives.

Colossians 2:6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him,

I John 2:6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

I Peter 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

Luke 10:2a

and He was saying to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;

The harvest truly is plentiful. So many people have very poor examples of what to do. They are lacking in their faith and belief in God and all that our Savior has done for us. Let us go out and be the living examples of walking like Christ walked. Let us all go out into the harvest and wash “people’s feet.” The need is truly great. The need is great, and people are lost and searching. People need to see it with their eyes and observe us.

Are you ready to be a living example and follow in the steps of Christ? Let your life be a living demonstration of a believing child of God.

Albert Einstein said:

“Setting an example is not the main means of influencing others; it is the **only** means.”

Remember, people watch what we do, not only what we say!

Be both a hearer and a doer of God’s Word!