

BE A DOER!

I pray that as you read this article that your hearts will be open to receive, your minds quick to understand and that you would be able to apply what God speaks to you when you read His Word. That you'll be not just a hearer of the Word but a doer of the Word of God. In Jesus Name. Amen.

How many of your relatives or people in your realm of influence have not come to know the Lord Jesus because of your testimony/lifestyle? Do you claim to know Jesus as your Savior but have not made Him Lord of your life? Are you still doing the same things that you did before you asked Jesus into your life?

Are people excited about seeing you or being in your presence because you are so loving, uplifting and positive or do they take one look and say "O No, here comes....." and they try to avoid you because of your negative, argumentative, grumbling, judgmental, unhappy speech and lifestyle? Jesus and the writers of the New Testament were speaking to the believers to be different, to be positive, to live and speak the "great confession".

Sometimes when we are wanting so badly for someone to know Jesus like we know Jesus but we may have been the biggest hindrance to their coming to know Him. They take one look at your life and say if that's what being a Christian is then I think I am better off where I am.

Will Christ find faith on the earth when He comes back? Or will He find a grumbling, hateful, greedy, sick, unhappy, miserable church that walks after the things of the flesh rather than the things of the Spirit? He is coming back and it is sooner than later.

Yes, we are all human and we all have made mistakes and yes there is a grace that God gives us but it does not negate the fact that the Bible says to "be holy because He is holy". And yes, grace covers us greatly in our ignorance but once we know better then watch out for judgment and correction.

In 1 Peter, which was written approximately 1,947 years ago, Peter was exhorting the Christians to holy living and he was telling them specifically that stop judging others but start judging themselves. Chapter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

That Word applies to us today! I am a literalist when it comes to the Bible. If it can be applied to me then I try to apply it. The Bible was not written just for people in Jesus' culture it was written for us for our sake and for eternity's sake. I think it is time for a wake up call in the Body of Christ. It's time for Christians to be judging themselves. If we would look in the mirror of the Word of God and judge ourselves against what the Bible is telling us to do or to stop doing and change where change is needed then our witness to the unsaved world would be the living testimony that God wants

it to be.
Holy means to be set apart. Our God has been set apart from all other gods. We as born again believers need to be set apart from the rest of the world of unbelievers. We should not be doing the things that they are doing. We should not be influenced by their lifestyle but they should be influenced by ours to the glory of God. We should be influencing their musicians, their scientists, their politicians, their CEO's, their teachers,

their families, their lifestyles. We should, but we often fall short.

When we do the same things that they do then it confuses them and they have distorted perceptions and think distorted thoughts about who God is and what He expects from us. It causes people to think that God's character is like our character—God is stable not wishy-washy, God is true not a liar. God is love not a hater. God is good not bad. God is kind not unkind. God is a giver not selfish and tight fisted and self centered.

God expects that we will walk in the spirit not after the flesh. All those negative things that repel people are the things that are made manifest in our flesh. When we will walk in God's Spirit we will be walking in a spirit of Love. In Galatians 5:13-26 Paul talks about the freedom we have in our Christianity and as Christians that we need to walk in the spirit and after the Spirit and keep in step with the Spirit. He shows a great contrast between Spirit led life and carnal or fleshly led life (self centered life). Verses 19-26 The bottom line is does this benefit others around me? Am I walking in love in every aspect of my life?

Romans 8 is also a great chapter regarding being spirit-led. In fact the whole Bible is the best self-help book that was ever written. It applies to every situation that mankind will ever experience. It not only describes the problem it gives us a spiritual-practical solution to the problem. But just like every other malady that we go to the doctor for if we don't follow the doctor's prescription then we won't get any better in that situation. Same goes for the Bible. Don't just go to God and say "Oh God help me not to do that anymore", or "help me to love that un-loveable person." God has already done all that He is going to do for us. Now it is up to us to BE A DOER of the Word of God, not a hearer only. He has given us the prescription for every malady in our lives. If we would only apply the prescription we would be the loveable, faithful, happy, healthy, helpful, people of God in a crooked and depraved generation.

James 1:22-25 tells us to be doers of the Word and then we will be blessed in all that we do.

In Philippians 2 starting in verse 12 Paul tells us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. (not someone else's salvation) Then the Holy Spirit uses him to instruct us to do everything without grumbling and complaining. M-m-m-m-m, ever had a day in your life where you didn't grumble and complain? We are supposed to have days like that so that we will shine like stars in contrast to the darkness of the world.

I think the most helpful verse in the New Testament for me is Ephesians 4:29 where it says "do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs that it may benefit those who listen." I used to type it out so it filled up an 8x11 sheet of paper and hang it on the wall so I could see it and say it every day and so could my family and anyone else who came into my home. In the Old Testament God commands us to write these words on the doorpost of our homes. (Deut.6:4-11) It is not wrong to have scripture hanging on your walls. But what's better than that is if it is scripture that you are actually applying to your life. Which can be evidenced by those in your realm of influence.

All throughout the Bible there are lists of do's and don'ts. But we don't

have to go by the lists we can go by the spirit that is in us when we accept Jesus as our Savior. He will lead us into right living or righteousness. We just have to be attentive to listen then quick to obey. James says it like this. "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." (1:19) That doesn't happen unless you make a concerted effort. That just doesn't happen unless you know what God wants and expects of you and that doesn't happen unless you discipline that flesh(mind, will, body) to read the Word of God daily and apply it to your life.

I encourage you today to start a disciplined, purposeful reading of the New Testament and as you do that you will keep a little note book of all the things that God by His Holy Spirit is speaking to you to do that you might be the most brilliant, shining star in the universe as He uses you to hold out the Words of life to this crooked and dying world. Jesus is coming soon. Let judgment begin today and let it begin with us judging ourselves against the Word of God. Be a doer of the Word not a hearer only.