

THE BIBLE FOR REAL LIFE

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INTRODUCTION

It is imperative in the Christian life that we learn to live out our faith and understand the importance of God's Word in daily living! We don't want to be hypocrites like the children of Israel (Isa. 1: 11-15).

- We want to be "doers" and not "merely hearers"

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer 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. (James 1:22-25)

Hearers only:

- Listen without action
- Forget what was learned
- Deceive themselves
- Are unprepared for hardship

Doers:

- Understand and remember what is heard
- Take action and obey what they hear
- Action reinforces truth and creates a solid foundation in hardship

Two biblical illustrations of hearing God's Word but not doing:

- James 1:22-25 – looking in a mirror and forgetting what we see
- Matt 7:24-27 – the house built on sand and the house built on the rock

The Thessalonians were an example of faithful "doers": 1 Thes. 1:5-10

- Joyful in suffering
- Faithful in proclamation
- Genuine in repentance
- Eager for Christ's return

- We want to walk worthy of the Lord

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...(Eph. 4:1)

...so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please [Him] in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...(Col. 1:10)

Deut.5:33; 8:6; 10:12

Josh. 22:5

1 Kings 2:3

Psa. 1:1

Prov. 2:7

Eze. 20:19

Eph. 5 :2, 8, 15

1 Thes. 2:12

1 John 2:6

REMEMBER: We don't do good works to BE saved; we do good works because we ARE saved. When we are truly regenerate, our *walk* will give evidence of this. There will be some level of fruit in our lives.

I. WHERE DO WE STRUGGLE TO LIVE OUT OUR FAITH?

Areas where we MUST live out our faith and what we say we believe:

1. God's sovereignty

Psa. 115:3

Job 42:2

2. God's goodness

Psa. 34:8; 100:5; 119:68

Nahum 1:7

3. God's love and care

Psa. 34:17-19

Matt. 6:25-34

4. God's wisdom

Prov. 8

Rom. 11:33

5. God's commands for relationships

A. Speaking the truth in love

- Eph. 4:25
- B. Humbling ourselves
 - Phil. 2:3
 - James 4:10
- C. Forgiving others
 - Luke 17:3
 - Eph. 4:32
- D. Manifesting honesty and integrity
 - Psa. 15:1-2
 - Mic. 6:8

Symptoms when we doubt God's character and fail to obey His commands:

- Lack of intimacy with God
- Anxiety
- Fear of the future
- Lack of peace
- Lack of contentment
- Tendency to be controlling of circumstances and of other people
- Difficulty in interpersonal relationships

Remember the 3 Questions (a wonderful reminder of God's sovereignty over all of life):

1. COULD God have stopped it? (Yes!)
2. DID God stop it? (No)
3. What is He teaching me???

II. WHERE DO WE FIND HELP TO LIVE OUT OUR FAITH?

1. Listening and hearing
 - Deu. 5:27; 6:4-6
 - Psa. 42:5,11
 - Prov. 1:5; 4:1; 8:33
 - Isa. 28:23
 - 2 Tim. 3:16
2. Meditation
 - Josh. 1:8
 - Psa. 1:2; 63:6; 77:12; 119:15, 27, 48, 148; 145:5
3. Prayer
 - Psa. 102:1
 - Eph. 1:18
 - Heb. 13:18

Rom. 12:12

Practical suggestions for progress:

1. Depend on the Holy Spirit
2. Recognize your responsibility
3. Identify specific respectable sins
4. Memorize and apply appropriate scriptures
5. Cultivate the practice of prayer
6. Involve one or a few other believers with you

(Respectable Sins, Jerry Bridges, p. 51)

III. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS WHEN WE LIVE OUT OUR FAITH?

1. Peace

Psa. 119:111

Isa. 26:3

John 14:27

2. Joy

Psa. 33:21; 119:111

John 15:11

Gal. 5:22

3. Hope

Psa. 130:5; 146:5

Rom. 12:12; 15:4, 13

4. Deliverance from fear

Psa. 27:1; 34:4

Prov. 31:25

"In keeping [God's commands] is great reward" (Psalm 19:11)

RESOURCES:

Expository Listening, Ken Ramey
Respectable Sins, Jerry Bridges
Spiritual Depression, Martyn Lloyd-Jones