

## CHAPTER SEVEN - PART THREE

### DOERS OF THE WORD

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*  
**(James 1:22-25)**

To be a *doer of the Word* we must put into practice all that we have heard and studied from the Word of God. We can deceive ourselves into believing that we need only to hear the Word, but not abide in it. We can be deceived into thinking that because we have the knowledge of the Word this completes our faith, and we do not need to obey or be a doer of the Word. But Scripture says otherwise. And though we should mature in the knowledge of the Word of the kingdom, this alone is not enough for us to be found worthy at the Judgment Seat of Christ on that Day. We must take the commands of Christ, from the Word of God, and apply them to our day to day experiences — this we must do until the end.

Pertaining to the salvation of the soul, *You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only (James 2:24), and Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead (James 2:17).* Faith and works go hand in hand, producing *faithful obedience*. When we act by faith, we put aside our fleshly desires and our way of thinking, and we allow the Spirit of the Lord to perform a work through us. It is the Spirit who does the work, but we must first *choose* to allow the Spirit to do the work. Works of the flesh produce no profit, only works done in the Spirit.

*“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”*  
**(John 6:63)**

In **Acts 1:4**, we see that the Spirit of the Lord was working through the disciples on the Day of Pentecost, as they began to speak in other tongues [*languages*] to the multitudes that gathered together.

*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Those who came from faraway lands to Jerusalem were astonished because they knew this was most unlikely unless the disciples had come from their own land and thereby knew their language. Although these signs were empowered to the disciples strictly for Israel and only during the time of the offer and reoffer of the kingdom, this event reveals that when we allow the Spirit to take control, He is able to do good works through us. We are to *work out our own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure* (**Philippians 2:12b, 13**).

God created man in His image and in His likeness. However, after the fall of Adam, all those procreated from Adam onwards are in Adam's likeness, no longer in the likeness of God. We see this in **Genesis 5:3**, *And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.*

All individuals are born with an unredeemed spirit (...*even when we were dead in trespasses...* **Ephesians 2:5**, we ...*must be born again* **John 3:7**). All have unredeemed souls (...*the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts...* **Ephesians 4:22**). And, all have an unredeemed body apart from the glory (*Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.* **Romans 8:23**). But because of God's love, He has set in place through the death and resurrection of His Son, everything that is necessary for the redemption of all three parts of man's being. We begin with the free gift of eternal life, the gift of the Holy Spirit, that God sent to man after Christ ascended to heaven. Although the free gift of eternal life [no works involved because Christ did the work and paid the price] has completely and irrevocably redeemed our spirit, our soul and body remains unredeemed [requiring good works according to the power of the Holy Spirit for Millennial life].

In **Ephesians 2:8-10**, Paul lays out for us the division of the salvation of the spirit and the salvation of the soul.

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. [Salvation of the Spirit]*

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. [Salvation of the Soul]*

At the Judgment seat of Christ, works done in the body, whether good or bad, will be judged. If our works are found worthy, this will lead to the salvation of our souls, to redeemed, glorified bodies, and entrance into the kingdom with positions of rulership with Christ for 1000 years.

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)*

Therefore the basis for all judgment in Scripture is “works.” God judged sin at Calvary on the basis of His Son’s finished work (**John 19:30**). Christians will be judged at the end of this present dispensation on the basis of works (**1 Corinthians 3:12-15**). Israel will be judged following the Tribulation on the basis of works (**Ezekiel 20:34-38; Revelation 16:15**). Saved Gentiles coming out of the Tribulation will be judged on the basis of works (**Matthew 25:31; Revelation 4:6b**); and the unsaved will also be judged following the Millennium on the basis of works (**Revelation 20:11-15**).

On that Day our works will be judged as to whether we were “doers of the Word.” There are numerous types, antitypes and examples given in the Old Testament and the New Testament teaching and warning Christians of a future judgment so that they may be prepared. These examples present a word-picture of the Judgment seat of Christ where believer’s works, emanating out of faithfulness and also out of unfaithfulness, will be tested. These two types of works (good and bad; faithful and unfaithful) are depicted by “*gold, silver, precious stones,*” emanating out of faithfulness, that which will pass through the fire unharmed and “*wood, hay, straw,*” emanating out of unfaithfulness, that which will be consumed by the fire. We see this in **1 Corinthians 3:9-15**:

*For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it.*

*But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

*Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.*

*If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

Individuals shown to have possessed works described by *gold, silver, and precious stones* will experience the salvation of their souls, which will allow them to take part in Christ's millennial reign. However, those individuals shown to have possessed works described by *wood, hay, and straw* will suffer loss and will experience the loss of their souls, being cast out of Christ's kingdom — though they will be *saved* [their eternal salvation unaffected].

Maturity in the faith, being completely obedient to God's Word, is a lifelong process. In the Old Testament, we have the example of faithful obedience in the life of Abraham. God called Abraham to leave his country and go to a foreign place, which he did, but not according to God's instructions. Abraham made many mistakes and had much to learn about how the Lord works patient endurance. But God continued to work in Abraham's life until he had been brought to maturity, to the place of absolute faithful obedience to the Lord. It took approximately sixty years after Abraham left his country Ur for him to be ready to undergo the ultimate test of his faith. At this time, God instructed Abraham to go to a certain place to offer his son for a burnt offering (**Genesis 22:1**). By faith, Abraham set out to do exactly that which God commanded, having no hesitation or objection. Abraham had

complete faith in God, knowing that his child belonged to the Lord and if it was His will that the boy be sacrificed, God would raise him up again. Abraham knew and fully trusted God. This trust brought about a mature state of patient endurance and faithful obedience. And because of this, God accepted as a replacement a substitute lamb as the sacrifice.

Likewise, Christians today are to be brought into a mature state through the same process. And like Abraham, failure at obeying God's exact commands may occur many times until one is ready to be faithfully obedient through trials and testing.

Another example of good and faithful works can be seen in the Book of **Ruth**. Ruth, a type of the Church (specifically the bride of Christ), is pictured with her sister-in-law, Orpah, becoming members of a Jewish family by marriage (a picture of their birth from above). Christians also become part of a Jewish family as a result of Jesus Christ, being made alive in the Spirit.

After their husbands died, Ruth and Orpah chose to journey to another land with their mother-in-law, Naomi. It is at this point in time that Ruth is made aware of her future goal — the land of her calling. Naomi, who is a type of the nation of Israel, also represents that which has come through the nation -- the Scriptures. During the journey, Naomi suggests to her daughters-in-laws to go back to their homes in Moab as she can no longer provide husbands for them. Christians at this point in their journey must make the choice to either endure trials and sufferings or turn back to the world. Ruth continued the journey to the end, but Orpah chose to turn back. Ruth is determined to follow Naomi and be faithfully obedient to all that she said:

*...Ruth clung to her [Naomi].* **Ruth 1:14b**

*Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. (Ruth 1:16)*

*And she said to her [Naomi], "All that you say to me I will do."*  
**(Ruth 3:5)**

Likewise, Christians must have a proper understanding of the goal, knowing the reason as to why they are laboring to accomplish that goal.

Then, they are to run the race of the faith, the journey from the land of one's birth to the land of one's calling — the heavenly Millennial kingdom. Through the course of her journey, Ruth was determined to abide in Naomi's instructions, working in the field and preparing herself to meet Boaz, a type of Christ, at his threshing floor. Ruth was faithful in all that Naomi said until the end of barley harvest. This resulted in Ruth being prepared at Boaz's threshing floor, a type of the Judgment seat of Christ, and thereby becoming the wife of Boaz.

Christians are called to make the same journey to the heavenly land. In order to be prepared to meet Christ at His judgment seat, it will take the determination to cling to the Scriptures and follow His instructions to the end. All that God has commanded in His Word prepares Christians to meet Christ on that future Day and to be found worthy as His bride. However, many Christians will choose to be like Orpah, choosing not to heed the Scriptures and journey to the end. Like Orpah, many Christians will choose to go back to their carnal state and back to the world. There are three reasons why Christians tend to fall back from journeying to the land of their calling and that is due to: 1) the lust of the flesh, 2) the world and 3) the devil.

In the Gospel of **Matthew** we have examples of four types of Christians, while only one type endures unto maturity after hearing the Word of the kingdom. The others fall back due to the reasons mentioned above. This can be seen in the Parable of the Sower in **Matthew 13**. But Christians, who do hear the Word of the kingdom and endure, are the ones who bear fruit; and some more than others.

*“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”*  
(**Matthew 13:23**)

The Parable of the Talents in **Matthew 25:14** and the Parable of the Minus in **Luke 19:11** creates a vivid word-picture of the Judgment seat of Christ, where Christians will one day stand before the Lord to give an account of all their works done in the body. In these parables we see that Christ had ascended to heaven *to receive for himself a kingdom and to return* (**Luke 19:12**). In the meantime, He has *called his own servants and delivered his goods to them* (**Matthew 25:14**) and *said to them, ‘Do business till I come’* (**Luke 19:13**). These *goods* that Christ

sent are 1) the gift of the Holy Spirit, 2) the Scriptures and 3) talents — to each according to one’s ability.

When a person placed his belief in Christ, he was given all of these goods mentioned. It is the believer’s choice at this point whether he will ‘*Do business till I come*’ by seeking the Scriptures and using the talents he has been given to produce good works, works done according to the Spirit. Part of these works involves dying to the flesh and allowing the Holy Spirit to control our spirit. These works we must continually do until the end. If we do, we will be transformed from the “old man” to the “new man,” able to produce fruit for the building of the kingdom. Our business, as stewards of the Word of the kingdom, is to spread the message to other believers.

When one is producing fruit and proclaiming the Word of the kingdom to others, Satan will be there attempting to destroy the Word and bring about division and persecution. For this reason, one must have on the whole armor of God. He must withstand the temptations of the devil by the Word of God. He will surely fail to produce good works and overcome if he is not strong in the Lord.

Our actions and our speech should be determined by our faithfulness to the Word of God. They are not to be controlled by our present circumstances or by our own fleshly desires.

All that we do or say matters, whether in secret or openly. Solomon, the wisest man in the world, warned us about the importance of producing good works and keeping God’s commandments:

*Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13a, 14)*

The works of the flesh produce evil thoughts and deeds. When we walk in the flesh, we are producing the works of Satan; we are of the devil. In **Galatians 5:19**, we are made aware that believers who practice such things (the works of the flesh) will not inherit the kingdom of God. Only believers who produce the fruit of the Spirit will be able to inherit the kingdom. And *let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart (Galatians 6:9).*

Our faithful obedience, our good works, will show as we strive to be imitators of Christ: holy, humble, set apart from the world, being a good steward of the whole gospel of Christ, obeying His commandments, loving God and all man. This is having the fruit of the Spirit. It is loving others and considering others better than ourselves, not expecting anything in return. It is being joyful in whatever circumstance we find ourselves in, whether blessings or trials. It is separating ourselves from the world, what it thinks and does that is contrary to God, even if it means suffering for it. It means being submissive to those who lead over us, whether law, government, bosses, husbands, or parents — whether they are gentle or harsh. It means always portraying a spirit of gentleness, humility and self-control, especially when someone else is evil towards you. It means keeping peace amongst our brother and not stirring up divisive contentions. It means spreading the Truth and building the kingdom. It means praying to the Lord constantly and hoping for His return. It means knowing Him through His Word. This is part of our journey, our race of the faith. This is what it takes to be an overcomer — to hear the words,

*“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)*

On that Day, the Church will stand before Christ at His judgment seat and hear the words, *“I know your works...”* It will be our present works that will be at the forefront of Christ’s judgment.

The fear of the Lord and the hope of reward will motivate one to do good works and persevere. It will motivate one to be transformed into the very likeness of Him. And through Christ, everyone can change. We can realize this with Paul and his ministry, which required a complete turnaround from the direction his life was heading. If the one who persecuted the Church could be so radically changed by the power of God through the Holy Spirit, then the same power is able to work in us to bring about radical changes in us. And those who knew Paul as a persecutor saw this great change in him:

*Then all who heard were amazed, and said “Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound*

*to the chief priests?" But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ. (Acts 9:21, 22)*

God's grace was bestowed upon Paul so that he *should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ...and that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:8; Colossians 1:28).*

Therefore, it is by the grace of God and the faith of the believer that any aspect of salvation is possessed, whether the salvation of the spirit, salvation of the soul or the salvation of the body. It is first by God's grace, His favor (*that which God is able to do entirely apart from human intervention*) that we can be able to act by faith (*believing that which God has to say about a matter*).

As a believer, *you have been saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8).* This act was due to the past work of Christ's death on the Cross and your faith in Christ. Now a continuing work of grace must be involved (the spirit of Christ working through you) along with your faith in order to possess the salvation of your soul, resulting in the salvation of the body at the Judgment seat of Christ. If we choose to commit ourselves to the Lord and be faithful, God will be graceful to do His works through us. It is these works of God that will save us in the very near future. We must be a Doer of the Word.



