

Doing the Word

James 1:22-25 (ESV)

²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

John 17:17

Sanctify them by^[a] the truth; your word is truth.

This is based on how you respond to the Word.

We need to put a premium on getting things done. There is a blessing in having a bias towards action when it comes to the Word.

It is possible to have knowledge but not do what you tell others to do. This incongruence between knowledge and practice was a characteristic of the Pharisees.

Matthew 23:3

So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.

It is true today. The best teachers are not always the best doers. The best soccer coaches are not always the best players. We have assumed that people will automatically do what they have come to know. Unfortunately, many people have deluded themselves into thinking that because they know and even teach, it means they are practising it.

Acts 2:37

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

What was the key to the Early Church Revival? I believe that one of the keys was Responsiveness to the Word.

Your responsiveness to the Word is seen in the degree to which you repent and renew your mind to a new way of life.

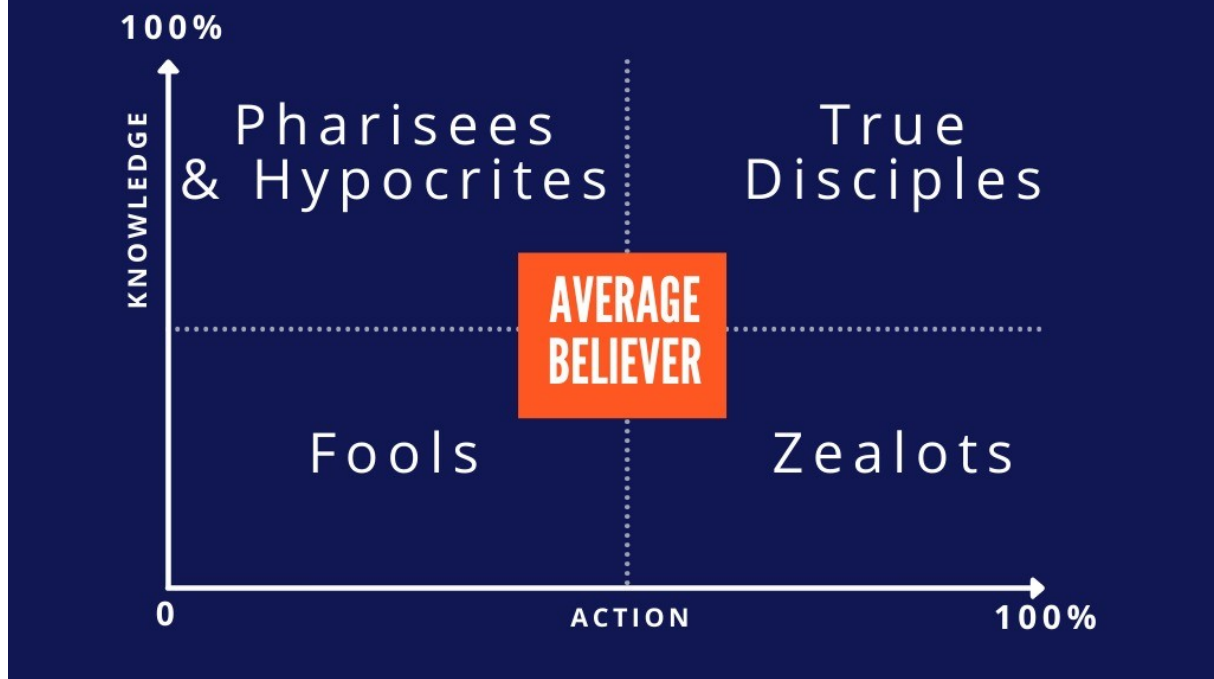
True learning is the acquisition of knowledge with a resultant change of attitude, values and behaviour.

It's not enough to just know the Word. WE NEED TO DO THE WORD WE HAVE COME TO KNOW.

In your life what is the ratio between knowledge and practice?

Are you Low knowledge - Low action; Low knowledge - High Action; Mid level knowledge - Mid-level action; High Knowledge - Low Action (Deceived Pharisees and hypocrites); So what is our goal? High Knowledge - High Action (Possibly the Bereans were like this)

Paul Nyamuda's Model for doing the word



There is also the fool who thinks he is high knowledge but is actually low knowledge, BIG MOUTH and low action.

Prov 18:6-7

⁶The lips of fools bring them strife, and their mouths invite a beating. ⁷The mouths of fools are their undoing, and their lips are a snare to their very lives.

It's safer to be a low knowledge person and aware of it than a low knowledge person who is unaware of their ignorance. Imagine what harm you can cause. If you ask me to rewire your house, I will say that I can't because I am aware of my ignorance. I become a dangerous person if I am unaware of my ignorance.

James 3:1

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

James 4:17

If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

Luke 12:47-48

"The servant who knows the master's will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

The key question to ask after hearing the Word is "How now shall I live?" If you hear a series on Divine Healing, the key question to ask is, "How now shall I live?" Other questions are: What needs to change? Start to do list. Stop to do list.

Some people are aware of the responsibility that goes with hearing the Word, so they choose not to hear it. This is problematic because you can't practice the Word you don't know. In the Kingdom, ignorance is not bliss.

7 Characteristics of Doers of the Word

1. Doers of the Word recognise the source of the Word.

1 Thess 2:13

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

As a result, they do not treat the Word of God like any book they can be indifferent towards. They are conscious of the fact that they are receiving the very Words of God. This makes them completely submitted and yielded to the Word.

2. Doers of the Word mix the Word they hear with faith.

Heb 4:2 (NKJV)

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, ^[a]not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

3. Doers of the Word create a system for remembering it.

You can't do the Word if you keep forgetting it. Therefore it is useful to:

- Write it down so that you can revisit it
- Meditate on it regularly
- Talk to others about the Word you have received
- Pray through the Word you have received

Ask yourself, "What should I do as a habit to get this Word into my spirit?"

4. Doers of the Word dig deeper after hearing it.

Digging deeper involves personal study and discussion with others.

Acts 17:11

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

They were described as being of noble character because of this. What do you do with the Word you receive in your devotions and after hearing Sunday sermons? What you do with the Word you have received reveals your character.

5. Doers of the Word are faithful custodians who pass on what they have learnt.

2 Tim 2:2

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

Col 3:16 (ESV)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Richly = plousios = abundantly; Admonish = noutheteo = warn, counsel, exhort. Sometimes this can create accountability.

6. Doers of the Word apply it practically to all aspects of life.

2 Tim 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

It's sad how people say things like, "Yes I know that is what the Bible says, but let's be practical...."

Heb 5:13-14

Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

7. Doers of the Word assess themselves based on the Word they have received.

You become what you measure. Self-assessment and self-examination are major keys for personal growth.

2 Cor 13:5

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

I believe that when you use and apply the Word in your life, you are more likely to be blessed with greater levels of revelation of the Word. God gives you more as you faithfully use what you already have.