

Lesson 2: Wise and Foolish Builders

Reference: **Please Read:** Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:46-49

Theme: We are deceiving ourselves if we don't put God's Word into Practice

Context: Jesus closes His Sermon on the Mount with a beautiful illustration- Obey His Word

Introduction:

Have you ever heard that saying, "Love is not a feeling, it's an act of our will?" Words are powerful, they are the building blocks for future actions. But as it's written in James 2:17, *"...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."* Jesus made it really clear, John 14:15, *"If you love me, you will obey what I command."*

- Love for God and people is manifest through actions
- Of course good feelings will follow right actions, so enjoy them
- However, feelings should always be the caboose and not the engine of our lives

1 John 5:2-3

This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.

Question: "What other principles foster good and healthy relationships?"

Putting God's Word into Practice

Here is the real crux of the matter, are we putting into practice Jesus' words or are we simply performing lip service that we are a disciple of Jesus without any corresponding actions.

- The truth of God's Word acted upon brings results in our lives- **John 8:31-38**
- Otherwise we are just accumulating information and knowledge- **1 Corinthians 8:1**
- We study the Word of God, with the aim to apply it in our lives- **2 Timothy 2:15**

Question: "Self-Deception, how is that possible?"

James 1:22-25

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does.

So the Holy Spirit through James is making it painfully clear, that we are self-deceived if all we are doing is listening to the Word of God only. This is important- don't stop there- **Ro. 10:17**

- In order for the Word to stick in our lives, we must put it into practice, otherwise forget
- The secret to being blessed by God is to look into the Word consistently and do it
- Effective Christian witness is backed up with a life of willing obedience- **Isaiah 1:19-20**

Luke 8:21

He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

1 John 3:18

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

- **Please Read: James 2:14-26**
- Speaking the Word or confession is part of working the principles of faith
- But, faith without deeds is dead, so our faith is made complete by what we do
- Real Christianity is moved with compassion – love in action
- It is not hollow sympathy that feels sorry for people and does nothing- **1 John 3:16-18**
- What turns the world off more than anything is hypocritical Christians
- Don't practice what they preach. The double standard offends them and rightly so
 - o **Matthew 23:1-3; Revelation 3:16**
- When we obey the Law of Love, we're setting the right example for others- **Jn. 13:34-35**

3 John 2-4 NKJV

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

- When we obey God's Word we show our love for God- **Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 5:1-5**
- Neglecting to obey God's Word invites tragedy; our spiritual life being built on sand
- So when the tests, trials and temptations of Satan come, we crumble beneath them
- It's not just a little fall, but complete destruction; a shipwrecked faith- **1 Tim. 1:18-20**
 - o A good example of a hard fall was Peter- **Mark 14:37-38; Luke 22:31-34**
 - o Isaiah 7:9, "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."
 - o Lk 18:8, "However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"
 - o 2 Corinthians 5:7, "We live by faith, not by sight."

The secret to standing according to Jesus in **Luke 6:48**, is to dig down deep and lay our Christian faith upon the rock of God's Word- consistently putting it into practice in our lives. The foundation we all start with through the New Birth experience is Jesus Christ. How we build upon it, the materials we use, will stand before the Lord one day to be judged- **1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:1-11.**

Acts 20:32

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

So we have been learning the critical nature of obeying God’s Word, but how do we do this. When we read a command, do we run off and try to obey it in our own strength?

Galatians 3:14.

- That would be religion, man trying to serve God by their own devices and not by faith
- The principles of by God’s Grace (Power) and through our Faith is the key
- **Eph. 2:8-9** – By God’s grace (Word) through our faith (Word in our heart)
- With the Word of Faith principles we can Obey God’s commands His way, by His grace
 - o **Please Read: Deuteronomy 30:11-14; Romans 10:8-9**

John 6:63, “The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”

- The secret is to take the seed of God’s incorruptible Word and plant it in our spirit
 - o **James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:23-25**
- The sowing is in the saying, as we meditate and speak God’s Word, it gets into our heart
 - o **Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:1-3; 119:9-16; Mark 4:14-20, 26-29**

2 Corinthians 4:13, “It is written: ‘I believed; therefore I have spoken.’ With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.”

When we become fully persuaded in our spirit, that we believe we have received, the Word of Faith is transformed into the Spirit of Faith and we obey the command or receive the promise of God. **Romans 4:17-25; Mark 11:22-23; Luke 17:6;**

Hebrews 10:23 AMP

So let us seize and hold fast and retain without wavering the hope we cherish and confess and our acknowledgement of it, for He Who promised is reliable (sure) and faithful to His word.

- Christianity is known as the “Great Confession”
- So confession of God’s Word always proceeds possession
 - o God’s grace to obey or receive
- We must step out and act on that grace to obey and receive
 - o **Romans 13:11-14; Ephesians 4:17-5:20; Colossians 3:5-17; 1 Peter 5:5-6**
- **Question:** “Did you know that the ‘Word of Faith’ was originally about obeying God?”