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Willing And Obedient
Pastor Margaret Mendenhall

Being a doer of the word and not a hearer only has been the emphasis on the last few teachings that we have had, but needing to be included in that teaching also is the fact, that we must be willing and obedient to what Gods plans are for our lives. His plan has always been to bless his people with fruitfulness and He speaks to us in many ways letting us know that the answers will come, "it is not over yet" is what He has planned for us. The devil is defeated.

James 1:19-25 "Understand [this], my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear [a ready listener], slow to speak, slow to take offense *and* to get angry. 20 For man's anger does not promote the righteousness God [wishes and requires]. 21 So get rid of all uncleanness and the rampant outgrowth of wickedness, and in a humble (gentle, modest) spirit receive *and* welcome the Word which implanted *and* rooted [in your hearts] contains the power to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the Word [obey the message], and not merely listeners to it, betraying yourselves [into deception by reasoning contrary to the Truth]. 23 For if anyone only listens to the Word without obeying it *and* being a doer of it, he is like a man who looks carefully at his [own] natural face in a mirror; 24 For he thoughtfully observes himself, and then goes off and promptly forgets what he was like. 25 But he who looks carefully into the faultless law, the [law] of liberty, and is faithful to it *and* perseveres in looking into it, being not a heedless listener who forgets but an active doer [who obeys], he shall be blessed in his doing (his life of obedience)." AMP

The book of James has been written to Christians, it tells them how important it is to get rid of certain things in their lives which are hindering them. He lists wickedness as sin and that it has caused us to be dead.

What does it mean to be dead? It means that we are disconnected from the source of life which is God, sin has separated us, so our spirit man was dead until we accepted Jesus as our savior, the Holy Spirit went down on the inside of our spirit and that same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, became a part of our spirit and we became alive. We became new creatures in Christ, however, the outer man was the same having all the old things operating in his life. Our soul, which is our mind, will and emotions, that part which is unsaved and needs to get saved, taking the word of God and implanting it down on the inside of us.

v. 22 we not only need the Word, but we have to be willing to obey the Word because if we don't we are deceiving ourselves. Knowing the Word, but not being a doer opens us up to deception.

v. 23 looking into the mirror will show us what needs to be changed if we are doers of the Word.

v. 25 gives instruction as to what can be seen in the mirror and what the outcome will be

The blessings of God started back in the beginning, in the garden, this was His plan for all mankind, in everything that they did. Eve disobeyed or rebelled against what God had told her and sin entered into her life and the garden. This is when Satan came to her, he was a liar and deceiver, causing Eve to question what God had told her and Adam. In Ezekial 28 and Isaiah

14, we can read his story how pride and his desire to become higher than God was his downfall and how it caused all mankind to be deceived. Satan was the first to rebel against God and his plan was to get Eve to rebel. He came to steal, kill and destroy.

Isa 1:19-20 "If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; 20 But if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it." AMP

We see that there are two ways to live, blessed or cursed. But the choice is ours, we have to be willing and obey what we are instructed to do. Getting willing to obey can take place in a short period time. Being willing to obey and just obeying can be different, the willingness makes the difference. God never asks us to do something that will not benefit us, He always has a plan and we will be blessed by being obedient and willing to Him.

A story was shared regarding a minister who had been told not to take up offerings at his meetings, but he questioned how this was possible since he was responsible for others welfare and not just his own, he even took on some extra expenses still wondering how he would be able to meet the needs, but he obeyed, believing he had heard from God and upon a chance meeting with some other people, who had in advance of meeting with him, had heard from God also and who being obedient to what they had heard, monies were given to the minister that paid for everything and there was an abundance of finances left over for him. The minister made the statement, "unusual instructions produces extraordinary results". Not only obeying but being willing to obey was his experience.

When God asks us to do something, He is asking us for our benefit, we cannot let our flesh dictate to us, He knows what is on the other side of a situation. He is wanting to bless us. Because of what Satan did in the beginning, we have a choice to make, we can choose blessing or cursing. There is one thing that moves us into the area of blessing and that is obedience.

Pro 5:11-13 "And you groan *and* mourn when your end comes, when your flesh and body are consumed, 12 And you say, How I hated instruction *and* discipline, and my heart despised reproof! 13 I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers nor submitted *and* consented to those who instructed me." AMP

This scripture is a picture of the consequences of rebellion. We can get by with rebellion for a little while and the devil will try to tell us that we can, but in the long run, it will be our downfall.

Eph 2:2 "In which at one time you walked [habitually]. You were following the course *and* fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of] the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God]." AMP

There is a spirit of rebellion which tries to separate us from God and what His plan for our lives is, causing us to leave everything, families, businesses and etc, just because things are not going as we want, but the end will be bad. God is calling His church to a greater level of obedience.

John 5:30 "I am able to do nothing from Myself [independently, of My own accord—but only as I am taught by God and as I get His orders]. Even as I hear, I judge [I decide as I am bidden to decide]. As the voice comes to Me, so I give a decision, and My judgment is right (just, righteous), because I do not seek or consult My own will [I have no desire to do what is pleasing to Myself, My own aim, My own purpose] but only the will and pleasure of the Father Who sent Me." AMP

Jesus made a decision and was obedient to the Lord regarding His death, burial and resurrection, seeing what the full plan was, knowing that He would be absent from the Father for a period of time, but He could see the end result, knowing that He was taking all the sin of mankind on Himself, but He would rise victorious and would be defeating Satan.

If we are willing to be obedient we will eat the good of the land. The following scripture tell us what the blessings of the land will be, but there are curses involved if we are not obedient.

Deut 28:1 "If you will listen diligently to the voice of the Lord your God, being watchful to do all His commandments which I command you this day, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth." AMP

It is our choice to make, we must crucify our flesh, following after what the desires of the Spirit are, setting our minds and seeking those things.

Rom 8:5 "For those who are according to the flesh *and* are controlled by its unholy desires set their minds on *and* pursue those things which gratify the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit *and* are controlled by the desires of the Spirit set their minds on *and* seek those things which gratify the [Holy] Spirit." AMP

What does it mean to be a "doer" of the Word? There are many scriptures all through the Bible that explain what being a "doer" involves. Look them up and claim them for yourself, the blessings will become yours. Your decision to be obedient will influence others, especially your children.

Deut 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you that I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live" AMP