

Four Pillars: Doctrine 4 – Obeying God’s Word

The 4 Pillars

Acts 2:42 - And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' **doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

“Doing” the Word of God

James 1:22 - Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Matt 7:21-27 - "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' 24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

It's not enough to know and believe the Word of God, we must DO what it says; otherwise we deceive ourselves...

Knowing vs Doing

Matt 4:5-7 - Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. **For it is written:** "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

James 2:19 - You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder.

The enemy knows scripture and the truth of God’s Word, but knowing is different from doing or obeying...

Obedience vs Disobedience

1 Sam 15:22 - But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

→ *Saul’s disobedience cost him his **God-given** position, and eventually cost him and his sons their lives*

Gen 4:5-7 - but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. 6 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

→ *Cain **gave an offering**, but God rejected it because it wasn't what He had prescribed.*

James 2:21-24 - Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

→ *Abraham, the father of the faithful, only received the promise because he put **obedience with his faith***

Gen 22:2 - Then God said, "Take your son, **your only son**, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about

→ *Abraham had another son, Ishmael, but God didn't recognize him. Why? He was born outside God's plan.*

A Consistent Requirement

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will obey what I command.

Rom 1:5 - Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.

Heb 5:9 - and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

Here, we see 3 vital aspects of the Christian life (faith, love, & salvation) all require obedience...

Benefits of God's Word

Ps 1:2-3 - But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Josh 1:8 - Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Ps 119:11 - I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Ps 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

John 6:63 - ...The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

Through God's Word we gain salvation, prosperity, health, better relationships, and so much more!!! We need a steady and healthy diet of scripture!!!

Action Items

- 1) Let's develop an openness and objectivity to obeying the Word of God
- 2) Are there any areas in your life where you've not obeyed or maybe only partially obeyed?
- 3) Are there any doctrinal areas in your life that need "dusted off" and re-studied with fresh perspective?
- 4) Make a solid commitment to follow God's Word wherever it takes you, it's the only way to truly live!!!