

# FREEDOM NEWS

WHERE FAITH MEETS ACTION



Message from Pastor Derek Heldreth

NEWSLETTER

## PUT THE WORD TO WORK

**James 1:22** But be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

**James 2:20** But will you know O vain man, that faith without works is dead.

James, the brother of Jesus and author of the Book of James asks us two questions in this verse, first, do you want to know and second, do you know that your faith can be dead. Many think if they have read their Bible, if they have heard a sermon that they know what those scriptures are saying but the Bible consistently tells us from the Old Testament to the New Testament that we must actually do what it says not just hear it.

**Deuteronomy 28:1 (AMPC)** 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.

What does it mean to listen to the voice of the Lord or to be watchful to do His commandments? He has spoken to us through His Word, the Bible. We must put into practice the things that we read. In Deuteronomy 28:1-68, it elaborates on all the blessings that will come into our lives when we obey the things the scripture tells us to do and all the curses that will come on us when we don't. Then the Lord even tells us which to choose - choose life!

**Deuteronomy 30:19** I call Heaven and earth to witness this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live.

When we see an instruction in the Word, we are to do it. When we hear an instruction in a message, we are to implement it in our lives as it is only then that it is a reality in our lives and that we are doers of the Word that we have heard.

**James 1:25 But whoso looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues therein, he being not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the word, this man shall be blessed in his deeds.**

To be a doer of the word and to be blessed, we look to the Book of James as it is basically an instruction manual, telling us what to do and what not to do. In fact, the Book of James is sometimes referred to as the Proverbs of the New Testament. James also instructs us concerning our faith and what we should do to have strong, effective faith. So what things does James tell us we should do to be a doer of the Word? What can we do from the instructions to make sure our faith works? That is so important because without faith it is impossible to please God.

**Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.**

What does it mean when we say God is a rewarder? He believes in us, so we reciprocate that confidence by believing in the reality of what He says. He sees us walking in our purpose that we were created for and when we exercise faith, that is what causes rewards to flow into our lives.

**James 2: 17 Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone.**

Our faith requires a corresponding action to be effectual faith. Every Bible account of faith had a corresponding action. And just as we have an action to our faith, our knowledge of the Bible must have an action and be lived out in order to be alive. What does that look like? The Book of James is essentially a list of those things we should do and not do.

One of the primary areas of emphasis is the tongue, what we say.

**James 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.**

**James 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.**

Let us watch our words, let us examine ourselves to see if we are actually in faith and that we have put action to our faith, and let us examine our lives that we are living out the scriptures we are reading so that our lives are a reflection of what the Word says.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mother's Day Cookout - Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm**

**Christian Center Church    2249 Classen Blvd    Norman OK 73071    (405) 360-5504**

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