



FEBRUARY MEDITATION

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22 ESV

John Barrett, a leadership coach with the John Maxwell Team, wrote a blogpost entitled “Doers vs. Don’ters...Which One Are You?” Stewardship Ministry Team member, Lydia, ran across it and shared it with the Team. Though not written to address stewardship specifically, the article caused us to think about what it means to be a doer of the Word. This month we want to share those thoughts with you.

The following characteristics of doers and don’ters are paraphrased from Barrett’s writing:

DOERS

Are results oriented
Ask “how”
Are like thermostats
(change with the environment)
Are lifelong learners
Find reasons TO DO things

DON’TERS

Are stability oriented
Ask “if”
Are like thermometers
(measure the environment)
Are pass/fail test takers
Find reasons NOT TO DO things

Though most of us want to be seen as doers, there’s no shame in being a don’ter. Most of us are a little of both, and that is how it should be. One situation may provoke us to action while another setting demands we not act. If those two scenarios seem to be at odds with each other, think about the times you knew the wisest course was to not do something. For example, saying “no” to overspending, self-indulgence, or an unhealthy relationship is a don’ter characteristic that is admirable. But still, our impulse is to “do” more. And, at first glance, that seems to be what James is saying.

James said, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” You may be asking, doesn’t that contradict the doctrine of salvation by faith alone? Martin Luther thought so. But James never says that works *lead* to salvation. He says that works are a *result* of our salvation.

How do we avoid the unattainable goal of doing enough? We recognize that how we steward our time, talent, and treasure is an expression of our faith. It has been said that we are “human beings, not human doings.” Just “be” and the “DOs and DON’Ts” will take care of themselves.

Do make spiritual disciplines a priority.
Do that which the Holy Spirit nudges you to do.
Do thank God that His grace is enough.

Don’t do anything out of human ambition.
Don’t do anything without Holy Spirit guidance.
Don’t try to help God do His job by you doing more.