

Teamwork in the Local Church
Lesson Eight: A Church of “Doers”
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Introduction: Are We Doers or Dreamers Only?

- A. Many churches dream about doing great things for God, but fail to do them.
 - 1. There is a tendency with churches to do a lot of talking, wishing, hoping, praying, and planning about good works, only to never do them.
 - 2. Brethren are good at Bible study, preaching sermons that call us to fulfill our duties, and good at coming together to discuss spiritual goals.
 - 3. We write tracts, pamphlets, articles, and books about our spiritual goals and the spiritual work that we must do, yet then fail to do them.
 - 4. While initially there may be some good works accomplished, brethren quickly burn out, lacking the long term commitment to achieve their goals.
- B. Blessings come for the church that not only hears God’s word, or merely dream about doing it, but actually does it (**James 1:22, 25**).
 - 1. A church that grows and fulfills her spiritual mission is a church that is filled with “doers” or members who make things happen.
 - 2. The more “doers” a congregation has, the more spiritual goals can be achieved and the more spiritual blessings will come for the church.
- C. What sets apart doers from mere dreamers is persistent, deliberate action.
 - 1. A church that is well built is a church that respects Jesus as Lord by hearing His words *and* acting upon them (**Luke 6:46-48; 11:28**).
 - 2. Only by the continual practice of “doing” will a church be transformed from being mere dreamers to actual doers of God’s will!

I. Essential Attitudes of “Doers.”

- A. Zeal for good works (**Titus 2:13-14**).
 - 1. A deep appreciation for our Savior who freed us from our sins will create in us a strong desire or zeal for good works.
 - 2. Enthusiasm (zeal) can make all the difference in maintaining a diligent effort in the good works we do!
- B. Faithfully optimistic
 - 1. Doers hold the conviction that there are good works that God intended for them to do in Christ Jesus (**Eph. 2:10**).
 - 2. Our belief that what we do as a church matters is essential to our motivation as doers in the Kingdom of Christ (**1 Cor. 15:58**).
- C. Looking for opportunities to do good (**Gal. 6:10**).
 - 1. An *opportunity* is simply a favorable and appropriate time to accomplish a goal or achieve an important work.
 - 2. Doers don’t wait for opportunities to just “fall on their lap,” but search for opportunities each day to do God’s will.
 - 3. We should pray for opportunities, but then actively look for those opportunities and make the most of them when they are found (**Col 4:2-5**).

II. What is required to become a “Church of Doers”?

- A. We move beyond our good intentions.
 - 1. All Christians have good intentions – we decide in our mind that we are going to take positive action; we resolve to do something good.
 - 2. We may verbally express our good intentions to others as proof of our love, yet *good intentions alone do not make us doers* (**1 John 3:18**).
 - 3. Genuine faithfulness is demonstrated not only by what we say or think, but by what we do (**James 2:14-17**).
- B. Practice, practice, practice!
 - 1. Many works of the church are neglected because they are unappealing, challenging, or unpleasant to do (e.g. evangelism, restoring the erring, appointing elders, resolving strife, discipline, confronting the false teacher).
 - 2. Yet, the only way a church overcomes this is not just by Bible study, but by forcing themselves to *practice* the works God has called them to do.
 - 3. How, for example, does a Christian become a prayerful, joyful, and thankful person? *Practice, practice, practice!* (**1 Thes. 5:16-18**).
 - 4. How does a church reach the lost, edify its members, achieve unity, restore the erring, etc? *Practice, practice, practice!* (e.g. **1 Thes. 1:6-8**).
- C. Each member focuses on the talent he/she has and uses it.
 - 1. While we all need to work together to accomplish the work of the church, God instructs each member to use his/her gift (**Rom. 12:4-8**).
 - 2. For a church to be the *most* productive as doers of God’s will, each member needs to find out what their gift is and concentrate on using it.
 - 3. When each member uses the gift God has given him/ her, there will be less discouragement (Why can’t I do what he does?) and more work done.
- D. Sacrifice
 - 1. Many churches are only dreamers and not doers of God’s will because they are unwilling to make the sacrifice to make their dreams come true.
 - 2. Just as every Christian must carry his/her own cross to be Jesus’ disciple (**Luke 14:27**), every church must make sacrifices to complete her work.
 - 3. Many dreams or big plans for a great church work are short lived because of the failure to “count the costs” (**Luke 14:28-30**).
 - 4. Doers understand that spiritual goals worth pursuing require making sacrifices, even getting out of one’s “comfort zone” to achieve them.
 - 5. When we give ourselves first to the Lord, we will make great sacrifices for His cause (e.g. **2 Cor. 8:1-5**).
- E. Encouragement from one another to be doers.
 - 1. When brethren encourage one another to be all that one can be for the Lord, members gain strength, courage, and confidence to do God’s will.
 - 2. We all need to be “stirred up” by one another! (**Heb. 10:24-25**).

Conclusion: True Teamwork in the Church Requires not just Dreamers, but Doers Who Will Get the Work of the Church Done!