

STUDY SEVEN – ACTING ON HIS WORD!

Introduction

In John 6:47 Jesus said, “He who believes in Me has everlasting life.” “Believing” is “having”. It is possession. Mental Assent admires the Word, confesses that the Word is true and very desirable, but it doesn’t possess. Believing ends in the glad confession, “It is mine. I have it.” What a little real action on the Word we see today. You remember the man who was brought into the presence of Jesus by four of his friends. (Mark 2:1-12)

Jesus said to him, “rise, take up your bed and walk.” Had he not acted on the Master’s words, he never would have been healed; but because he acted, he was healed. Luke 5:5 Peter said, “But at Your word I will let down the net.” What a change would come into some of our lives if we said, “At Your Word I will.” We have clung to the theories of men and ignored the Living Word. Healing and victory belong to you. When Jesus said to Peter, “Come, walk the waves with me”, Peter acted on the Word. When the servants filled the firkins with water, they obeyed what Jesus said, and the water became wine. John 2:1-11.

We mentally Assent to the integrity and the reality of the Word; but we do not act on it.

Until we act upon it, it does not become a reality. You may hold the Resurrection Truth as a great doctrine or dogma, but it will not mean anything to you until you say, “He died for me. He conquered death and hell for me. He arose for me. And because He arose, I am a victor, I am a conqueror of Satan today. Satan has no dominion over me. I am free.” Then the Word becomes something more than a doctrine or a theory. It becomes a reality. People who act on the Word receive things. Today, the one who acts on the Word receives.

You act faith, you talk faith; your actions and your words agree. You are a believer.

It took faith to get into the family, but after you get into the family all things are yours. (1 Cor. 3:21) It took faith to become a child of God, but the children own all that Christ wrought for them. When God says, “I watch over my Word to perform it”, then you may be certain that if you accept Isaiah 53:3-6 that just as surely as God sits on His throne, healing is bound to be yours. All you need to do is act on the Word. It is deeply important that you learn this simple little lesson. It is not struggling, or praying, or crying. It is acting on what God has spoken that brings results.

Faith and Believing

The word “faith” is a noun: the word “believe” is a verb. “Believing” is really “acting” on the Word. It is simply acting on the Word of God as you have acted on the word of a physician, the word of a lawyer, or the word of a loved one. You don’t ask the questions: “Do I believe?” or “Have I faith?” You simply say, “That is what God has said,” and you act accordingly; or “Did God say that ‘by His stripes’ I am healed? If God said it, then I must be healed, and I will act on what God has spoken.” Faith is the result of action. Believing is taking the step up to the object, the thing you want. Faith is having arrived.

Instead of using the word “believe”, I use the words “act on His Word.” It is simpler. It is perfectly Scriptural, and it is just what Jesus meant. It is a remarkable thing that nowhere in the Epistles did Paul urge believers to believe or have faith. Our urging men to believe is a result of the Word’s having lost its reality. What does Paul tell us? Ephesians 1:3 “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*” If He has blessed you with every spiritual blessing, then you are blessed.

SCHOOL OF FAITH!

You don't need to ask for the spiritual blessings. All you need to do is thank Him that you have them. All you have to say is, "Father, I thank You for my healing. I thank You for my deliverance etc." All that Jesus did was to act upon His Father's Word. All that Peter did was to act upon the Word which Christ had given him. It was the Word of Christ in Peter's mouth that he acted upon that brought salvation and healing and deliverance to the people. We may preach the Word, but if we do not practice it, it will produce no results.

We may preach healing and declare our faith in healing, but that is of no value unless we practice it. James tells us that "faith without corresponding actions is dead." When we act on the Word we show our faith.

We know that no Word from God is void of power or void of God's ability. Luke 1:37. So, we act on it. We fearlessly lay our hands on the sick. We command the disease to leave in Jesus' Name, and it obeys. The sick one is healed. He said, "I watch over my Word to perform it." We would never have laid hands on the sick and claimed healing if He had not told us to do it.

He said, "They that believe shall lay hands on the sick." Mark 16:16-18. That means the instant we accept Christ as our Savior, confess Him as Lord, and receive Eternal Life, we can begin to function in the Family. We can begin to lay hands on the sick. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved." Mark 16:16. The Greek word there for "saved" is "sozo" which means "healed, saved, deliverance etc." Healing in the final analysis is spiritual as well as physical. Disease manifests itself in the physical, but its roots, its substance, its reality are in the spirit.

The word "believe" occurs about one hundred times in the Gospel of John. The word "faith" only occurs about two or three times. The reason evidently is that he was talking to men outside of the Body of Christ, to Jews under the Law. They were not men of faith. They did not have faith. He was inciting them to believe.

Some Facts About Believing

Some people cannot believe the Word because they have never confessed the Lordship of Christ. The fear of man has held them in bondage. This is one of Satan's strongest holds on man. Many times, a dead creed imprisons a man. You have been taught not to believe this and not to believe that. Your Christ has been lost in a maze of theological theories. Abandon yourself to the Lordship of the Word; act on it; and God will become real to you.