

KNOWING IS ONE THING BUT DOING IS ANOTHER

John 13:17

Introduction: Experience has taught that it is one thing to "know what to do, how to do, when to do something or things, but entirely another thing to actually do what is known. "You should have known better..." "Didn't I tell you NOT to do....or didn't I tell you to DO...?" Everyone has experienced not doing or doing what he/she knew he/she should or should not have done. The same principle applies to one's spiritual life. It is one thing to know the will of God but it is an entirely different thing to actually do the will of God.

I. KNOWING BUT NOT DOING IS WORTHLESS

1. Trying to do the will of God without knowing what God's will is impossible.
 - There just can't be any act of God's will unless there is a direct connection to the will of God's ordering and directing it to be done.
 - Knowing the will of God can happen without ever doing the will of God and amounts to nothing.
 - There is no real benefit.
 - The evil spirits, demons, Satan have knowledge of the will of God, but do they do the will of God?
 - Knowledge without action produces nothing worthwhile.
 - Knowing about medicine would not benefit anyone unless it was put to use.
 - Understanding the things of God, creation, redemption, all mysteries and all things do no one any good if kept in one's mind and are never put into practice and told to others.
 - Those who know but do not act are *"...as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals..." (1 Corinthians 13:1-2)*
 - Knowledge without action aggravates one's own condemnation.
 - *"...To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin..." James 4:17*
 - Knowledge is like a talent which one has and will give an account some day of.
 - *"...to whom much is given, of him will the more be required..."*

II. KNOWING AND DOING TOGETHER PRODUCE GREATLY

1. When knowing and doing work together they please God.
 - *Hebrews 13:16*
2. When knowing and doing work together they bring comfort to one's soul.
 - Works of love are honored by God as well as the receiver.
3. When knowing and doing work together they generate blessings to be received on Judgment day.
 - *1 John 3:18, 21; 4:17*
4. When knowing and doing work together they guarantee one's everlasting happiness.
 - People will be rewarded in proportion to their using their God-given talents. *Luke 14:14*

CONCLUSION:

1. No one should pat him/herself on the back for having spiritual/scriptural knowledge if it is not being put into practice.
 - *"...not the hearer of the law that is just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified" Romans 2:13*
 - *"...Lord, Lord...." Matthew 6:21*
 - *"...be not hearers only of His word, deceiving your own selves, but be doers of it also; for then only shall ye be blessed in your deed..." James 1:22-25*
2. Those who know God's Will and the put it into practice are compared to the *"...wise man who built his house upon a rock..." Matthew 7:24*
3. Christian, are you a "doer" as well as a "knower" of God's will? Most Christians are not. Most Christians KNOW what God says, but few are obedient to all that God says. Hearers but not doers.
4. So, which are you?