

Doctrine of the Doer

6-2-2013

1. This doctrine has been so named because in Jam 1:22 the believer is urged to be a "doer of the Word." Later James calls the believer who becomes a doer of the Word: "a doer of the work." (Jam 1:25)

2. I want to begin by providing an expanded translation of James chapter one verses twenty-two through twenty-five.

Jam 1:22 Now listen-up, you must become a doer of the Word and not just a hearer. A hearer is full of self-deception.

Jam 1:23 If anyone is just a hearer of the Word and not a doer, this one is like a man who first looks in a mirror and develops certain norms and standards and concepts about himself. All of this self-evaluation is based on a cursory review of his external form, birth, lineage, and assumed spiritual maturity.

Jam 1:24 Now the hearer likes what he sees so he immediately departs and forgets what are his perceived short comings.

Jam 1:25 But in contrast to the hearer, there is the man whom we shall call a doer. The doer, in contrast to the hearer, stares with great intensity into the complete law of liberty, which is the mind of Christ; it is this man who is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work. This man has intently evaluated and learned from the Word of God, he shall be happy and blessed in his very own production of divine good.

2.2 These verses reflect an interesting play on two different Greek words **Logos** and **Ergon**.

2.3 The characteristics of a doer are established in Scripture by James.

2.3.1 He becomes a doer after first staring intently into the perfect law of liberty which is another name for the Word of God.

2.3.2 Staring must be constant; it is not a one shot deal.

2.4 The hearer of the Word, at best, is one who hears and believes salvation Doctrine and then goes on his or her way. At worst, a hearer may be one who rejects salvation Doctrine and goes on his or her way.

2.4.1 The doer of the Word not only believes in Christ but keeps on staring into the Scriptures. It is important to make clear that both the doer and the hearer might be believers.

2.4.2 James established certain mechanics for becoming a doer in James 1:19. We will review this mechanic later in more detail.

Jam 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

2.4.3 I have developed 10 steps to maturity found in the Book of James which may at this point help set the stage for much of what we will learn.

Step 1: Get Doctrine in your soul, all you have to do is to want it-- it is never far from you; it is just a request away. (Jam 1:5)

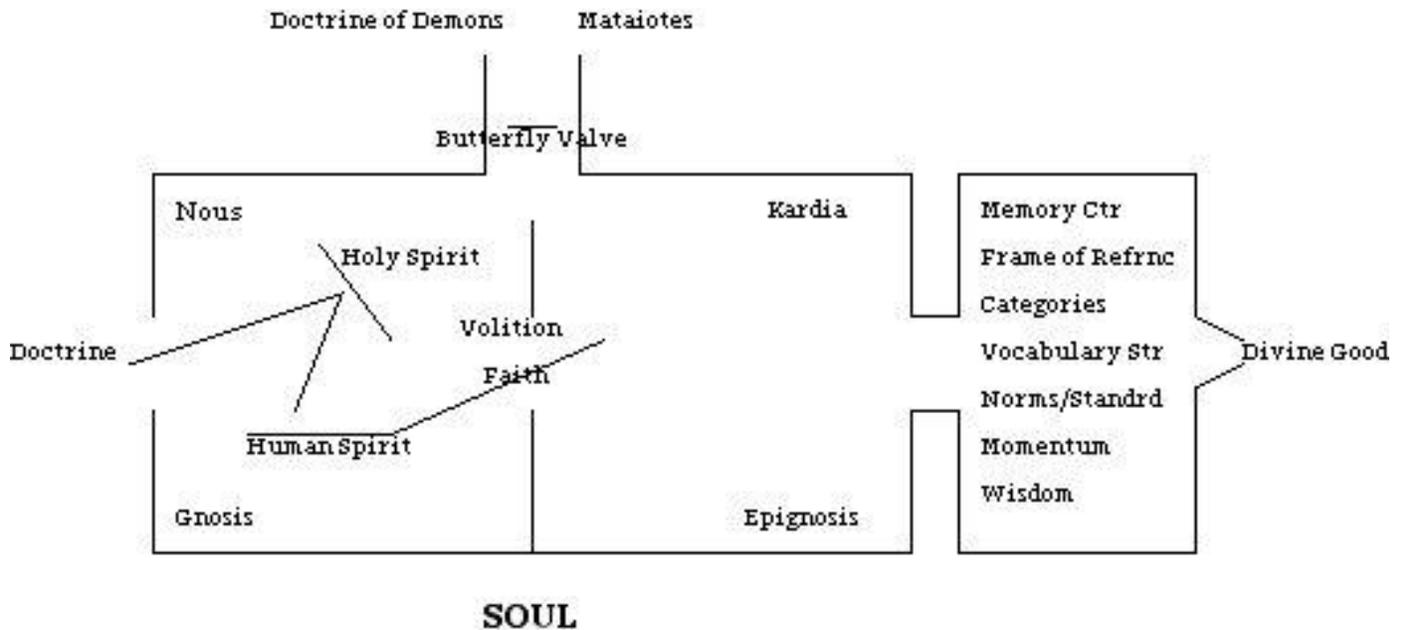
Jam 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, He will give to all men liberally, He will not upbraid you for asking; you ask and it will be given to you.

Step 2: You must ask in faith (believing God will give Doctrine to you), without faith God provides nothing. To illustrate let's look at our Soul Schematic but first I want to read Jam 1:6-7.

Jam 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

Jam 1:7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

The Soul Schematic

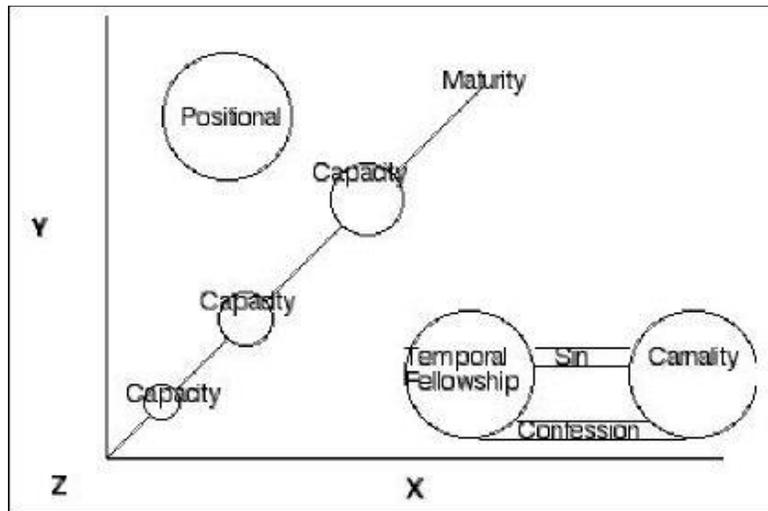


Step 3: You must be quick to assemble where Doctrine is taught, be quiet when you get there and do not emotionally react to that which you hear for the very first time. Find your right pastor-teacher; i.e., your place for learning. (Jam 1:19)

Jam 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

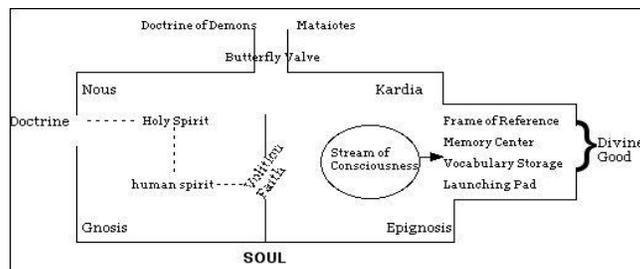
Step 4: Relax and spend time in the bottom circle, take in the Word and let the Word of God produce for it is seed, a seed which when planted either in the ground or in a woman will produce a product. Our Trichotomy of the Christian Life Chart will illustrate how the actions on the X and Y axes work together at intersection Z where they combine to provide a road to spiritual maturity.

Trichotomy of the Christian Life



Jam 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the pregnant Word, which is able to provide you temporal sanctification.

Step 5: Be consistent and stare intently into the Word and let it describe what manner of human you are. The hearer, in contrast to the doer, runs away and forgets what a wretch he is. James calls the one who stares intently into the Word, “a doer of the work.” The latter, is only a hearer--his failing is his refusal to grow by means of the intake of the Word. Doctrine must be consistently cycled in the soul if growth is to occur. You must continue to take in Doctrine; if you stop metabolizing the Word a vacuum is set-up in the soul into which false Doctrine will enter, conquer and control your soul. Focus on the valve at the top of our next chart.



Jam 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

Jam 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Jam 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Step 6: Avoid trying to keep the impossible Mosaic Law. (Jam 2:10) Our good deeds just get us into more trouble. Paul said in Rom 4:1-6: the man who works for salvation digs his own grave.

Jam 2:10 For whosoever shall try to keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Rom 4:4 Now to him that worketh the reward is not reckoned of grace, but it results in debt.

Rom 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Rom 4:6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

Step 7: The Mosaic law and the books of the prophets were appropriate for the believer until John the Baptist but now the Kingdom of God is preached and every man pressed unto it. (Luke 16:16)

Luk 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John but now the kingdom of God is offered and every man pressed unto it.

- This new law is stricter than the Mosaic law. The law and the prophets were replaced by the Kingdom message and the Kingdom message of Christ was amplified by Church Age Doctrine. (Mat 5:43-45 and Col 3:5-14))

Mat 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Mat 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

- Without the New Covenant, and the Second Advent keeping the law is impossible.

Col 3:8 But now you must also put off anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Col 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Col 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Col 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Col 3:14 And above all these things put on charity, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

- Without doctrine in the soul it is impossible to fulfill the royal law of liberty and the many ethical standards found in the epistles.
- We often fail and lose our fellowship (not our salvation); fellowship is regained by confession. 1Jo 1:9

1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- You can't vitiate what Christ did for us on the Cross; i.e., we cannot render ineffectual His work. His work cannot be annulled by our thoughts, statements or actions. (2Ti 2:13)

2Ti 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

- James calls New Testament Scriptures, “the law of liberty.” Jam 2:12

Jam 2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

Step 8: Live the Christian life with faithful understanding that Doctrine in the soul will produce works; faith in Christ gets you salvation and faith in His Word will transform you--thus you will acquire temporal sanctification when you take in the Word of God. Satan will fight you tooth and toe-nail on this one. Surely says Satan you must DO SOMETHING! I can assure you on the promise of the Word, Doctrine in your soul will produce, you will DO SOMETHING, and more importantly with Doctrine in your souls *Your Job* is to relax, be consistent in the Word and trust the protocol plan of God for production. It is God's plan you produce divine good, a product of Doctrine in your souls.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, **which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**

Jam 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

Jam 1:20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Jam 1:21 **Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.**

Jam 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Jam 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

Jam 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Col 1:3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Col 1:4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,

Col 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

Col 1:6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; **and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it,** and knew the grace of God in truth:

Isa 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isa 55:10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

Isa 55:11 **So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please,** and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2Ti 3:16: All scripture is God breathed and is profitable for Doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness

1Ti 3:17: In order that the man of God might be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Step 9: Understand that the object of your faith (given the fact that **Pisteuo** is a transitive verb) requires a direct object to produce an action. So faith in God will not get you salvation says James rather sarcastically. James uses it as an illustration; an illustration which his Jewish friends will readily understand. They have always prided themselves in their monotheistic faith. So James shocks them with James 2:19.

Jam 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

- What James is teaching is best understood by this chart.

<p>Pisteuo Christ = Eternal Salvation</p> <p>Pisteuo Doctrine = Spiritual Maturity</p>
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End Lesson Taught 6-2-2013

