

Going from Willing to Doing

Joshua 1:8 — “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

Question: WHO makes your way prosperous and WHO makes your way a success?

Most people answer “God” — but that is NOT what this scripture says.

God is speaking to Joshua giving him directions. First, he is to meditate in the book of the law. This is referring to The Word - The Bible. The “day and night” part is referring to meditating in the Word continuously. The result of this meditation is being able to “observe to do” according to all that is written within. “Observe to do” means, being able to see how to go about doing it. Being obedient to that Word — being a “doer” of that Word.

Notice, the last parts... “For THEN... and THEN...” **THEN** meaning, the result of meditating is such that you see how to do that which you’re meditating upon and will be that YOU (not God) will make your way prosperous and YOU (not God) will have good success. **YOU**. **YOU** will make **YOUR** way prosperous and **YOU** will have good success.

So, WHO does this making one prosperous and WHO has good success? **YOU**.

BUT... (you knew there had to be one, huh?) **BUT** this prosperous, successful life comes **ONLY AFTER** you do your part. **YOU** meditate continuously. **YOU** apply that meditation to your thinking continuously (Proverbs 23:7). **YOU** visualize what is written and **YOU** let the revelation of what you’re meditating upon to take place and **THEN** you **ACT** upon that revelation. That revelation will give you insight, belief, wisdom and the know-how to go about doing it. That lifestyle will make you prosperous and give you a successful life. **YOU**.

With this in mind, let’s look at another scripture that I believe furthers this understanding.

Isaiah 1:19 — *If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land...*

Notice there’s two parts that **YOU** do, **THEN** the result. **YOU** be willing **AND** obedient **THEN** you’ll eat (partake of) the good of the land. Both *Willing AND Obedient*.

We just read in Joshua what it requires for one to be able to “do all that’s written therein.” One must meditate continuously in order to be able to **SEE** how to go about doing it. That’s called obedience. The power of enabling us to see how to do is the purpose of meditation.

I submit to you that there is a link in Isaiah 1:19 between the willingness and the obedience and it is **MEDITATION**.

Meditation isn't just the pondering, thinking and muttering (talking to one self) but it entails prayerful study (2 Timothy 2:15) and confessing — speaking that Word we're meditating upon (2 Corinthians 4:13; Hebrews 10:23), and trusting that the Word will produce in our lives the promise of that particular Word. Every SEED produces after its own kind, and from Mark 4, Matthew 13, and Luke 8, we find through the parable of the sower, that the WORD of God is the SEED. ALL these acts are involved with meditation, which are (together) preparing the ground (the heart), planting the SEED (The Word), watering that SEED (Eph. 5:26), and adding the nourishment of Praise and Thanksgiving over that SEED.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines meditation as "*close or continued thought; the turning or revolving of a subject in the mind; serious contemplation.*" It means also to resolve in the mind, imagination or premeditate.

The more we meditate upon a subject, the more real or clearer that subject becomes. Think about worry or fear; the more you worry, the more you fear that that worry will come to pass. Then when it does come to pass (and it will), you solidify that fear into your consciousness. That is the same way that Faith works. The more you meditate upon the promised SEED, the stronger that picture or thought becomes. More meditation, the clearer that picture or thought becomes, 'til you know-that-you-know that particular promise is yours and will come to pass.

Meditation, once it has produced significant clarity, will empower your Faith enough then to become that mountain-removing, yoke destroying, devil busting force released from you into the void/lack you're speaking to (Mark 11:23, 24; Matthew 21:21; 2Corinthians 4:13).

That force is the Biblical Faith that The Father ensures to come to pass... it's His Word at work and He'll make sure that it comes to pass (Isaiah 55:9-11; Jeremiah 1:12). In Jeremiah 23:28 in part says, "*... he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully...*" and in verse 29, "*... Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?*"

In John 5:19 & 20, we find this: "¹⁹ Then answered Jesus and said unto them, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.* ²⁰ *For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.*"

It's the Word that does the work. Jesus said "I do only that which I hear my Father say and only do what I see the Father do." Jesus SAW the Father DO something; Jesus DID what he saw the Father DID... How? By his (Jesus) meditating on the Word so much that that was ALL Jesus saw. He saw the WORD work in many various situations and in people's lives, so he ACTED upon that insight (vision within) and received the results of that insight. He "righted" the "wrong" in his walk while on earth and produced a life of obedience to the Father.

His mother and (half) brother, James both saw and knew the power of Jesus' words. He had what he said. Mary told the servants at the marriage of Cana of Galilee, "*Whatsoever he saith unto you, do.*" She knew that his word was as good as done. He spoke and that was it. Done. His word was true... good as gold. Likewise, James in his epistle, knew the importance of words. He learned it from hearing and observing his big brother, Jesus.

Joshua 1:8 gives the principle: "*...meditate day and night so that you can OBSERVE TO DO...*" In other words, so that you can SEE how to DO it. By meditation, you see that which you're meditating on. We use this principle or concept, all the time. Here's an example:

School teacher teaching the multiplication table to his/her students. How did we come to remember or perform these? By memorization. We spoke them over and over and over until they became second-hand to us. We got to a point where we knew that we knew. Through meditation, repetition and speaking them out loud to ourselves, we manage to SEE the answers automatically.

Later, we applied these mathematical skills and entered into Algebra, trigonometry, calculus and other higher math areas. We became proficient because we SAW how to do it. We would say to the teacher, "Yeah, I see it." Meaning, I understand, I comprehend the concept such that I can DO it. That's how we come to Observing and Doing the Word. "Be not hearers only, but doers of the Word, else you deceive yourselves." (James 1:22)

Ephesians 3:20 — *Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.*

Notice "according to the power that works IN us." What power is this? The power of the Word of God that is being enforced by us. Our FAITH is the working ability of God's Word IN and THROUGH our lips. It's proportional. How much FAITH do you have in you being Born-Again? How about in your healing? Finances? Marriage? etc...

Most Christians are highly developed in their FAITH when it comes to the New Birth. They know-that-they-know they are "saved" — going to heaven when they leave planet earth. The "Power" of their FAITH is strong in that area. But when it comes to healing, well, they may not be developed in that arena because of lack of knowledge, erroneous teachings, or possibly as Hebrews 2:1 says, "letting things slip."

I grew up under a particular denomination that preached the New Birth message almost every Sunday. But when it came to healing and such, we were told — "Well, it might not be God's Will..." — "Maybe God is trying to teach you something..." — "You never know what God will do..." — "Well we know that all things work for the good to them that love God..."

EVERY one of those responses are excuses perpetuated by some genuine, honest people but are FALSE in their context. The nay-sayers themselves don't know better. They are victims of the same propaganda. It's the "blind leading the blind" scenario. Sure, Romans 8:28 does say "*we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*"

BUT in context which this is written, it's talking about ALL those things that the Holy Spirit is praying concerning you and through you. Those things, or areas, work for your good — not sickness, disease or harmful situations.

John 10:10, Jesus is speaking and says, “The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have Life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.”

THE THIEF ... the ENEMY comes to steal... kill... and destroy. Who's the thief? SATAN! He comes for these purposes: to steal, to kill and to destroy. It's NOT God coming to do those things in your life, it is THE THIEF (SATAN our ENEMY). The thief will use whatever means to accomplish those goals in your life and if you are ignorant (lack of knowledge) in those areas and think one of the above “excuses” is your case, then he (Satan) will have a foot-hold in your life and from there work his destructive ways in you — and God gets the blame!

2 Timothy 2:26 speaks of this: *“they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”* Whose will? The enemy's will. Christians who have allowed something in their lives to give the thief / enemy / Satan that foot-hold. From there, if you do not recover yourself, you will go deeper into unbelief — spreading possibly in other areas as well.

2 Corinthians 10:5 & 6 tells us to be *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; ⁶ And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.”*

Cast down. That is, to bring under your authority, those imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God (that's THE WORD) and bring into subjection EVERY THOUGHT to the obedience of Christ.

How can you do this? You can't if you don't know what the Word says about the situation. A lack of knowledge will deceive you and ultimately, destroy you: “My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge...” (Hosea 4:6) and Proverbs 29:18... “Where there is no vision, the people perish...” When one cannot see (vision) how to go about doing something, when one has no insight (vision) to a particular area, deception (brought by the enemy) could enter in, and with that deception, the process to steal, kill and destroy starts to take over. Little by little, deception works and with that deception Satan gains mastery over your thinking, imaginations, and ultimately, your belief system which gives sway to your life.

In that verse six of Corinthians 10, it gives us the solution, the vaccine to this poisonous way of thinking, imaginings ... **HAVING IN A READINESS**, meaning you have something in your arsenal of weapons to crush this attack, this onslaught of wrong thinking, imaginations ... and that is the equipping of The Word of God, the Power within you to deal effectively against these arrows of doubt and unbelief from the enemy. It's called the Shield of Faith in Ephesians 6.

YOU can revenge all disobedience. Whether it's your disobedience or it's the enemy's attempt at you to disobey that knowledge you have (the power) IN the Word of God. YOU take action against that thought, against imagining a thought against that knowledge you have in your relationship with God and His Word. YOU do it. Take the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6 again) and deal with that thought, that imagination, that deceptive lie from Satan. You have to do this continuously, not allowing that "seed" from the enemy to enter in, much less allow it to take on roots.

Back in John 10:10, Jesus said He came to do something as well... To give you Life and to give you that LIFE in abundance... "MORE ABUNDANTLY".

In conclusion, let's look at Romans 16:24 through 27...

²⁴ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. ²⁵ Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, ²⁶ But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: ²⁷ To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

Verse 25... there's a mystery that needs to be revealed in order that we be established fully in the Word of God...

God is revealing His Word (vs. 26) so that we FAITHFULLY obey it - or we could say, God is revealing His Word so we can (willingly) obey it by Faith (obedience).

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land...

In Him...

~ Larry Blackburn