

To Be Or To Do, Which Should Our Way Of Life Be?

Historically in the Far East the chief emphasis in life is on “*being*” something, while those of us living in the West tend to look on “*doing*” as most important in our lives.

If we as humans were perfect there would be no discrepancy between “*being*” or “*doing*”.

If we were perfect we would live from within [“*being*”] and our actions [“*doing*”] would be the true expression of our inner being.

But as we all know life isn’t that simple.

The society in which we find ourselves tends to stress the “*doing*” and we all seem to be influenced by this general approach to life.

The role models that most people look up to and follow are those who are “*successful*” in life as a result of being “*do-ers*”, creating great wealth and obtaining prestige.

Christians are not immune to this influence of society.

This is why we find in the Church that those who lead are chosen because they are “*do-ers*”. As a result of this “*being*” has ceased to have appeal for people, as “*doing*” engages almost everyone’s attention.

As one English evangelist said, “*the accent in the Church today is not on devotion but on commotion.*”

Externalism has taken over.

1 Kings 19:11-13 [NIV] “*The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”*”

Christians now believe that God speaks by the wind and the earthquake only, and the still small voice can be heard no more as the religious machine has become a noise-maker. All this noise and show done in the “*name of One*” who was prophesied as to be rather different.

Matthew 12:18-21 [NIV] “*Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no-one will hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope.*”

Directly quoted from the prophet **Isaiah 42:1-4**.

We must discover where God throws His emphasis and come around to the divine pattern for our lives.

The moral quality of any act is imparted by the condition of our heart.

There may be a great deal of religious activity which arises not from within but from without, as a show of self-righteousness. Such religious conduct is imitative of society in general and reflective of the noise making society, in which we live.

The message that needs to be restored to the church is "*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*"

Colossians 1:26-28 [NIV] "*...the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.** We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.*"

This is the power that lies at the centre of life.

Speed and noise are evidences of weakness not strength.

The desire to be dramatically active is proof of our religious childishness, not maturity.

The fruit of our lives will be the product of what we are, every day of our lives. Our being !!

Water cannot rise above its own level.

Neither can a Christian by any sudden or spasmodic effort rise above the level of our own spiritual day-to-day life.

What we have been all day, every day of the week, is what God sees when we come before Him to worship Him on the Sabbath.

Matthew 7:15-23 [NIV] "*Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. **By their fruit you will recognise them.** Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognise them. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"*

The fruit of the tree is determined by the tree and the fruit of our life by the kind of life we live daily.

What we are interested in to the point of absorption both decides and reveals what kind of person we are.

If we are to be realistic in our Christian lives we must not overlook the tremendous power of affinity, that is the attraction which certain things and persons have for us.

Our human nature is very easily drawn into relationships with objects far removed from us and knowingly forbidden.

What this loved object may be is discovered by observing which direction our thoughts turn when released from restraints of work or study?

What do we muse over in our free moments?

To what do our thoughts turn to again and again?

When we have answered these questions honestly we will know what kind of person we are, and then know what kind of fruit our lives will bear.

The true worth of a Christian is revealed by their life on each week day rather than the Sabbath.

What is the key then to bearing good fruit in our lives?

Moses was a man whom God used in a powerful way and an example in many ways for us to follow.

A study of Moses' life will reveal one consistently.

Before Moses ever spoke to the people he always spent time talking to and listening to his Creator.

This is a Biblical norm we must follow to avoid injury to ourselves or others.

Matthew 5:13-16 [NIV] *"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*

Every Christian is a prophet of God, one by whom people judge God.

Every Biblical prophet of God spent a large part of his life in a secret place conversing with God before he preached in the public place.

Jesus was the perfect example of this.

Any plant must soak up sunshine and rain before it can ever bear fruit.

The Christian's heart must be soaked with prayer and exposed to the secret presence of God the Source of Light before true spiritual fruits will begin to grow.

We cannot in a brief time make up for long neglect of God and spiritual things.

Our fruit will be what we are inwardly, and not all our frightened prayers can prevent it.

If we would do Holy deeds we must be Holy people, all day, every day that God grants us in this physical life.