



Wanting to Do Is Not Good Enough

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Theme:

God is calling us not just to *desire* righteousness or obedience, but to *do* His will. Good intentions without action lead to spiritual stagnation.

Main Text:

 **James 1:22–25**

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror but forgets what he was like.”

 **Lesson Objective:**

To challenge believers to move from *wanting to do God’s will* to *actually doing it*, living out obedience through faith and action.

◆ **Introduction:**

Many Christians **want** to pray more, serve more, love more, and live holier lives. But “**wanting**” doesn’t produce fruit.

- It’s easy to **feel convicted** but not **converted into action**.
- God’s Word calls us to *walk it out*, not just *talk about it*.

Key Thought:

“Desire must lead to discipline; conviction must lead to commitment.”

Scripture References:

- **Romans 7:18–19** — Paul says, “*For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.*”
 - **Matthew 21:28–31** — The parable of the two sons (one said “no” but did the will; the other said “yes” but didn’t do it).
 - **John 14:15** — “If you love me, keep my commandments.”
 - **James 2:17** — “Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
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◆ Lesson Points:

1. Good Intentions Aren’t Obedience

- Many intend to serve God “one day,” but **delay** is still **disobedience**.
- God doesn’t bless intentions, He blesses obedience (**Deuteronomy 28:1–2**).
- The gap between **knowing** and **doing** is where most believers get stuck.

Discussion Question:

What are some things God has told you to do that you’ve only “**wanted**” to do but haven’t acted on yet?

2. Desire Without Action Leads to Frustration

- Like Paul, we struggle when our desires don’t match our deeds (**Romans 7:18–19**).
- God’s grace empowers us to move from weakness to obedience.

- The Holy Spirit helps us do what our flesh resists (**Philippians 2:13**).

Key Insight:

The Spirit gives you the power to do what your heart wants but your flesh won't.

3. Faith Must Be Followed by Works

- Real faith always produces movement.
- Abraham's faith was proven by his *actions* (**James 2:21–24**).
- Believers must *do something* with what they know.

Illustration:

It's like sitting in a parked car with the engine running, full of potential but going nowhere.

4. Obedience Opens the Door to God's Blessing

- Action demonstrates trust in God.
- The blessing is in the *doing* (**James 1:25**).
- When you act on the Word, you invite God's power into your situation.

Example: Peter had to *step out of the boat* before he could *walk on water* (**Matthew 14:29**).

♦ **Practical Application:**

Ask yourself:

- What am I *hearing* but not *doing*?
- What area of my life needs *obedience*, not *excuses*?
- How can I take *one step* of faith this week?

I want you to identify one area where you've said, "I want to" and turn it into "I will."

 **Conclusion**

“Obedience is better than sacrifice.” **(1 Samuel 15:22)**

Wanting to please God is good, but *walking* in His Word is what changes lives.

 **Closing Prayer:**

“Lord, help us not to just want to do Your will, but to *walk* in it. Strengthen our faith, remove our excuses, and empower us to act on Your Word daily. In Jesus’ name, amen.”