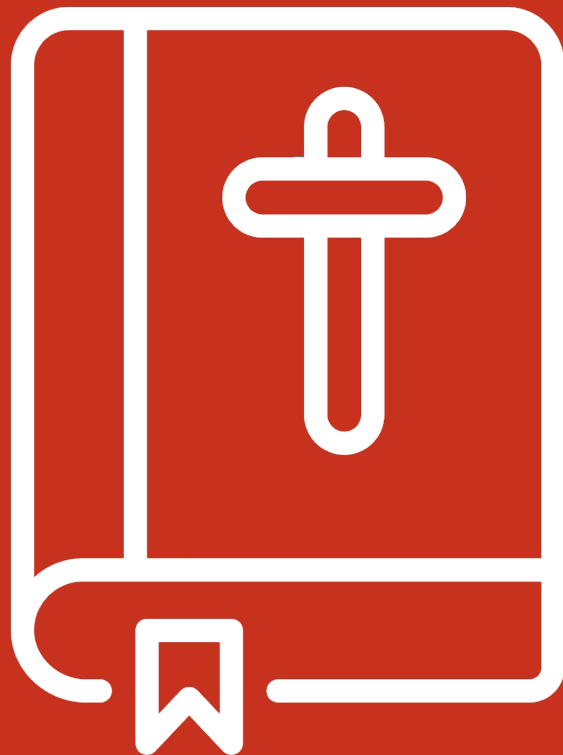


*A Series of Short Messages with Big Truths*

# STORIES AND SCRIPTURES

*Issue Seven*



## BLESSED IN THE DOING

**Jimmy D. Brown**

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## **STORIES AND SCRIPTURES #7: Blessed In The Doing**

*[The following transcript is from a ten-minute message shared with an audience at a local gathering.]*

What would you think if you saw me out on a run with this handheld water bottle running with it like this?

*[At this point, I take the lid off of my bottle and begin running with the top open and water splashes everywhere.]*

Or, what would you think if we were running together and I said, "I'm thirsty" and I got myself a drink of water from this bottle like this?

*[Here I place the lid into my mouth, hold my head back and pour water from the bottle into the lid – water quickly overflows the lid and spills all over me.]*

You'd think: "You're doing it wrong. That's not how it is designed to work. You're making a mess." And you'd be right. When understood and used properly, this handheld water bottle provides the benefits of hydration to keep me going. When used without following the instructions – lid on, inserted into mouth and squeezing appropriately – a mess is made.

Here's where I'm going with this...

*God has a good design for everything in life. Everything.*

He has wired relationships to work in a certain way. He has purposed that sex operate within a beautiful and specific framework. He has designed the way in which finances and workplaces and homes and communities are designed to flourish. He has determined how to best use our words, actions, time, skills, recreation, entertainment and resources.

He has skillfully and artistically fashioned out a way in which every aspect of life is to function - all working toward the ultimate goal of us knowing Jesus and making Him known so that God is honored in us and we are happy in Him.

Listen - we can avoid making a mess of our lives when we align our lives with God's design which has been made known to us in God's Word. Or, said in a positive way, we can experience the blessings and benefits for how God has designed things to work when we rightly understand and live out what God says to us – when we are "doers of the Word."

Listen to what the Bible says in James 1:22-25...

## STORIES AND SCRIPTURES #7: *Blessed In The Doing*

*[22] But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. [23] 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. [24] For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. [25] But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (ESV)*

Here's the main point I want to make today...

*Depending on whether we obey or neglect God's Word,  
we will either be blessed or we will make a mess.*

Now, as a quick aside, let me say this...

This is a messy world. No matter how holy our lives are, we are still going to have to deal with the brokenness around us. But we will avoid making unnecessary messes, and we will receive God's blessings when we are *"doers of the word."*

So, let me make unpack this by making four quick observations from the text in James that we just read...

*1. To be a "doer of the word" means to live by what God says to us in the Bible.*

It's not enough to know God has a design for everything; we have to live within the frameworks He has established. We aren't just hearers; we are doers. And that's not limited to lovingly obeying His commands – it's not less than that, but it's more than that. We also embrace His truths, practice His wisdom and trust His promises, letting all that He says shape how we think, feel, speak and act.

The Bible isn't an out-of-date, out-of-order, out-of-touch book with no real relevance for us today. It is God's Word that still speaks today telling us what is good and bad, right and wrong, true and false, beautiful and ugly, necessary and frivolous, wise and foolish. To be a *"doer of the word"* means seeking it out and living it out as the ultimate authority for the Christian life. Indeed, it is where life is found.

*2. We deceive ourselves into thinking we're fine when we neglect what God says in the Bible.*

In verses 23 and 24 James says...

*[23] 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. [24] For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.*

To hear the Bible and not act on it is like holding a mirror to our faces and ignoring what we see. We may

## STORIES AND SCRIPTURES #7: Blessed In The Doing

have mustard on our face. Our makeup could be smeared. There might be a cancerous spot. Snot might be oozing from our nose. The point is, there are some things that need attention that we aren't giving. Nothing changes. We may have good intentions to address what we see, but without actions, we're just deceiving ourselves. When something needs to be done, it needs to be done promptly and rightly.

We can't ignore reading God's word or forget what we heard from God's word or neglect to carry out God's word if we're going to be a doer of God's word. God loves us as we are, but He loves us too much to leave us as we are – He means to grow our faith and transform our lives and deepen our peace, joy, hope, purpose, love and strength in Him. Things change when we live by what He says. No one stays the same when we let the implanted Word take root in our lives and produce its life-giving fruit.

*3. Genuine submission to the authority of God's Word always brings blessing.*

Listen again to what James says in verse 25...

*[25] But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

Listen...

God loves to bless the doing of His Word. When we continue to look closely at the Bible, and instead of forgetting what we see, we act on it and let it make a difference in our lives, we will reap the benefits of doing what God says to us.

We are blessed not just by learning God's Word, but by living it out in the everyday moments of life, looking to His glorious design for how things are meant to work and work well. Submitting to the commandments, truths and promises of the Bible doesn't rob of us of happiness; it removes the things in the way of our happiness in Christ. Blessing after blessing is ours.

Now, what kind of blessing? What does it mean to be "*blessed in his doing*" when we don't just hear and forget, but actually remember and act? Here's what I think it means...

*A blessing is whatever God determines to be good for us now and, especially, forever.*

Sometimes this is material. Sometimes this is relational. Sometimes this is physical. Sometimes this is financial. Sometimes this is spiritual. But, at all times, this is whatever God knows is going to enrich our lives so we can be all that we were made to be, do all we were made to do and experience all we were made to experience in Christ. This mix of earthly and eternal blessings is always for our good and for God's glory. He gets the honor from us that He deserves and we get the happiness in Him that we desire. In part now and fully forever.

## *STORIES AND SCRIPTURES #7: Blessed In The Doing*

*4. We're still going to make a mess of things sometimes – but there is grace for us.*

None of us follow God's instructions perfectly – not even close. By nature and choice we've all refused to follow His ways and have gone astray. We fall short of God's standards. We fail to live by and live out His Word. We don't do things the way He designed us to. In short, we get it wrong. That's what sin is. It's rejecting God's rule in favor of doing things our own way. We've made a great big mess of things.

But there's good news. Jesus did what we could not – He obeyed God perfectly, then died on the cross for our disobedience, atoning for our sin, so we can be forgiven for it and freed from it. Then, He rose victoriously from the grave– and, now, that same power that raised Him from the dead is at work in us giving us what we need to trust and obey God.

Like I said earlier, no matter how closely we follow Jesus, we're still going to have to deal with the brokenness of this world – the messes we make and the messes others make. But, as we follow Jesus – as we are *"doers of the word"* – God will bless us with hope in hardship, strength in weakness, peace in chaos, joy in sorrow, guidance in confusion, purpose in every season, comfort in every loss and grace in every failure.

So, what do we do now? Here's a practical step. I didn't mean for it to rhyme, but it does – and maybe that will help you remember:

*Read the Bible every day and respond to what you hear God say.*

As you do, God will graciously give you the instruction, the desire, the encouragement and the power to do what fits with His design. And this always leads to blessing. Now, that doesn't mean we'll always get it right – because we won't. We're still going to mess up sometimes. But there is grace for us. Grace to forgive us when we get it wrong and grace to help us get it right.

And, let me remind us all – we live as doers of the Word not in an effort to earn God's acceptance, but because we already have it through Jesus. Rooted in grace, our submission to the authority of the Bible flows from love and joy, not fear and rule-keeping.

And, listen - if you've never trusted in Jesus, you can do that today. Believe what the Bible says about Who He is and what He has done for You. Ask Him to forgive you for your sin, take over your life and lead You into all that He has for you. If you mean it, He will do it right here, right now. If you have questions about this, please let me know – I would love to share more with you.

As we close, let's remember...

*God has a good design for everything in life.*

## **STORIES AND SCRIPTURES #7: Blessed In The Doing**

And in the Bible, He's revealed all that He wants us to know – all that we need to know – about how He has wired things to work and work well. By His grace, let's be doers of the word knowing that we will be blessed in the doing.

Let's pray...

*Heavenly Father, we praise You this morning as the Creator of all things – the One Who made the entire cosmos and then formed humans and breathed life into us so we could know You and enjoy the work of your hands. We give thanks for the way You have made all things to work in a specific way and serve a specific purpose – You're a God of order and design, not chaos and confusion. Help us to be doers of the word so we can live and thrive within the beautiful framework You intend for us, that we might be blessed and You might be glorified. We ask this in Jesus' Name, amen.*

## Reflection Questions

1. What stood out to you from this message as most meaningful? Why?
2. What was the central idea or theme from this message?
3. What Bible verses or passages were used, and how do they support the message?
4. How does this message relate to your life right now?
5. In what ways did this message convict, encourage or inspire you?
6. What good news did you receive in this message?
7. What did you learn about God that is praiseworthy in this message?
8. How was grace and the gospel presented in this message?
9. What do you think God wants you to do as a response to this message?
10. With whom do you need to share or discuss this message?

### PRAY IT

- *God, I praise you because...*
- *I confess that I struggle with...*
- *I thank you for...*
- *Please help me...*

How has God spoken to you through this message? .....

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## Connecting With Me

If you have questions about any of the enclosed material, or if you have any other questions about life with Jesus, please reach out to me by using the *Contact* form at the bottom of the page at *JimmyBrown.com* (making sure you enter your email address correctly). I will personally reply back to you, usually within 24 hours (excluding holidays or weekends).

*NOTE: There are a number of free resources available at JimmyBrown.com, and I regularly add more to the site. Check back often for additional materials to access at no cost.*

### Other Connections

- Social media (personal page): [www.Facebook.com/thejimmydbrown/](http://www.Facebook.com/thejimmydbrown/)
- Daily devotions: [www.FinishLineFaith.com](http://www.FinishLineFaith.com) or [www.Facebook.com/FinishLineFaith/](http://www.Facebook.com/FinishLineFaith/)
- Travel / mission vlog (with my wife, Paula): [www.TheMissionAmerica.com](http://www.TheMissionAmerica.com)

*If this resource has been helpful to you, please reach out and let me know.  
And please pass this document on to other people who may, by the grace of God, be helped too.*