

# You Are What You Do

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BIG SANDY, Texas—In my article on Jan. 28, I wrote a few thoughts about personal denial and how a person can recognize who he is. In that article, I shared five ways in which a person can examine himself.

At this time, I want to give each of the five concepts its own personal article. In this article, we will discuss the second concept—you are what you do.

## **God notices deeds**

Many Bible students are aware that the Greek word *ergon* (No. 2041 in *Strong's Concordance*) is translated "works" approximately 150 times and "deeds" approximately 20 times in the New Testament.

They realize that this is different from the Greek word *dynamis* (No. 1411 in *Strong's Concordance*), which is often associated with mighty works and miracles.

Notice a few examples of *ergon*.

- 1 Peter 1:17—judged according to each one's work
- Revelation 2:2—I know your works
- Revelation 2:9—I know your works
- Revelation 2:13—I know your works
- Revelation 2:19—I know your works
- Revelation 3:1—I know your works
- Revelation 3:8—I know your works
- Revelation 3:15—I know your works
- Revelation 20:12-13—according to their works
- Revelation 22:12—according to his work

## **More than a hearer**

The apostle James wrote a section of Scripture that contrasted the difference between hearing and doing.

*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 observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

### **More than good intentions**

James continued by mentioning that people deceive themselves.

*James 1:26*—"If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless."

### **Repent of bad deeds**

All people make mistakes. Whenever we perform bad deeds, we can find forgiveness.

*Psalms 51:1-3*—"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me."

*Acts 13:22*—"And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.' "

*Romans 7:14-15*—"For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do."

*Romans 8:3-4*—"For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."