

# THE GREETER

## SUGAR GROVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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SUMMER

## ACTION....ACTION

In the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew, Jesus spoke these words... “not every one that says Lord Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven but he that DOES the will of my father who is in heaven.”

The Word of God teaches nothing more clearly than that God has done His part by His grace sending His Son for our redemption, but we must respond to that with the condition, he says.... Act.Do. Obey. Many modern preachers disparage the idea of man actually doing something of his free will. This takes away from God’s omnipotence and His gift and insist that man cannot and must not “do anything” on his own to be saved. The very principle Jesus emphasized to enter the kingdom, they belittle. Only Believe is the true doctrine, many teach. Many agree and accept it. But it is contradictory, because then the same people tell others they must Pray, or Repeat a prayer. Is that not *Doing something?*

But Jesus is telling us as do Peter, Paul and all the other writers of inspired Scripture that repentance and obedience are a part of our faith. We cannot just assent to Jesus as Lord, but we must do as He says---the will of His father. We must change our life.

To ignore Jesus in this one respect is to ignore Him completely and accept only what suits us as convenient. Jesus parable of the wise man who built upon the rock is a good example of the wisdom we need to heed the words of Jesus and act upon them.

The difference is hearing and believing and those who hear, believe and then act. There are many nouns associated with the Gospel- redemption, salvation, eternal life, Master, Spirit, heaven. But remember there are also verbs including- doing, going, teaching, baptizing, serving, praying, bearing fruit, encouraging.

Of course, our actions are not the means of our salvation. They are simply the result of understanding what the Bible tells us —that we show our faith in receiving God’s grace--- we show it by good works. Let us love not just in words, but in deeds and truth,

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### THE HEART OF CHRISTIAN WITNESS IS LOVE - WAYS YOU CAN LOVE

- Listen without interrupting ( Prov 18) Speak without accusing (James 1:19)
- Give without sparing (Prov 21:26) Pray without ceasing (Col 1:9)
- Answer without arguing (Prov 17:1) Enjoy without complaint (Phil 2:14)
- Trust without wavering (I Cor 13:7) Forgive without punishing (Col 3:13)
- Promise without forgetting (Prov 13:12) Encourage without halting (I Thess 5:11)

Bitterness imprisons life- Love releases it; Bitterness paralyzes life, Love empowers it

Bitterness sickens life- Love heals it; Bitterness blinds life, Love anoints its eyes.