

## “Knowing Thou Will Do More Than I Say”

I. Introduction: You are looking for a faithful congregation. You find one that teaches the truth on all you can think to ask. You ask when they assemble. The answer: “Once on Sunday, for about an hour and fifteen minutes.” What do you think about that? Out of 10,080 minutes in a week, that congregation assembles a whole 75 minutes.

A. When Israel was returning to God, how long did they assemble together (**Nehemiah 8:1-8; 9:1-3**)? Consider, no A/C. Outside. No comfy seats. No automobiles to ride home in. No fast food restaurants. Work left to be done.

1. What would you think of a group of people who assembled for twenty whole minutes on the first day of the week and they say: “we didn’t forsake assembling together (cf. **Hebrews 10:22-25**). Nothing says how long on the first day of the week.”

2. On the other hand, you hear of a congregation that assembled and remained together overnight (**Acts 20:7-11**). Who appears more dedicated?

3. Works do tell us something (**James 2:18**)?

B. With faith being shown by godly works, where do you fall among these categories (not that there are only three that could be listed):

1. Faithless (**Matthew 17:14-21**).

2. Little faith (**Matthew 16:5-12**).

3. Faithful (**Colossians 4:7-9**).

II. Body: Be The People That Will Do More Than The Minimum (cf. **Philemon 1:21**)!

A. If you find your faith lacking, through examination of your works, what will you do to have “your faith” grow exceedingly (**II Thessalonians 1:3**)?

1. The easy answer is that faith comes through the word of God (**Romans 10:17**).

2. The work however is in the hearing, searching, learning, studying [diligence], and growing through His word (**Matthew 11:29, John 5:39, Acts 17:10-11, II Timothy 2:15, and II Peter 3:18**).

3. That process requires the desire for such (**I Peter 2:1-2**).

4. Then in the application of His will in the form of good works (**Ephesians 2:10 and II Timothy 3:15-17**).

B. We cannot think we can live off of what good works we did yesterday, last year, ten years ago, etc. (**Titus 3:8; 3:14**).

1. Failure to please God is not erased by our good works of the past (**Ezekiel 18:24**).

2. Think about the question asked to the Galatians (**Galatians 3:1-4**).

3. Why are we told not to get weary in well doing (**Galatians 6:7-9**)?

4. This is why it was said, “*look to yourselves...*” (**II John 1:8**).

C. What does it mean to put God first (**Matthew 22:34-40**, **Luke 10:38-42**, **Luke 9:23-26**, **I Corinthians 16:15**, and **Colossians 3:1-4**)?

1. Doesn't that include the kingdom (**Matthew 6:33**)?
2. There is no point, while we are alive in this world, when the work is over or lessens; or a time when our attitudes should be that we've finished (**Matthew 10:22**, **Luke 17:7-10**, **John 8:31-32**, **John 15:9-10**, **Acts 14:22**, **I Corinthians 9:24-27**, **I Corinthians 15:58**, **Philippians 3:3-21**, **Colossians 1:23**, **Hebrews 3:1-4:11**, **Hebrews 6:11-12**, **Hebrews 10:35-36**, and **Revelation 2:8-10**).
3. How does work, considering your abilities (**Matthew 25:14-30**), tie to your reward (**I Corinthians 3:8**)?
4. The righteous are scarcely [hardly] saved (**I Peter 4:17-19**), why would any one of us want to play around with our salvation?

D. What if we are only reserving the leftovers for God? Consider principles of "giving", but not just in relation to money (**Proverbs 3:9** and **Luke 21:1-4**).

1. Consider God's points in **Malachi 1:6-14**.
2. How did God feel when Israel was about their business, but not His (**Haggai 1:1-5**)?

III. Conclusion: Rather than being stuck in quicksand and holding on to a vine lest we sink, let's get up and abound [excel; be the better] more and more (**I Thessalonians 4:1-2**).