

## Doing Before Knowing

"If you will do what I ask you to do, you will know if what I am saying is right." John 7:17

These words of our Lord Jesus call attention to an essential truth. **Doing comes before knowing, obedience before understanding.** You cannot know if the operation is a success until you awaken from under the surgeon's knife. You cannot know that the airplane will arrive safely at your destination until the pilot lands the plane at the desired destination. You cannot know that your investment will return an expected profit until you commit your finances to the investment.

You have more difficulty understanding biblical doctrine than biblical commands. Doctrine is intrinsically ambiguous; the commandments are intrinsically unambiguous. You can more easily know that Jesus wants you to love others than you can know that when you die God will accept His death as payment for your transgressions. Obeying the commands is the path to understanding and assurance when it comes to biblical doctrine.

If you wish to understand the Bible, you must be willing to "do what I ask you to do." **You cannot hope to understand God and His ways apart from a heart for obedience.** Most think they can understand without the need to obey, but they deceive themselves. **God will not reveal Himself to those who have no intention of doing what He says.**