

# Central Pentecostal Ministries

From the Pulpit...

## GOD'S ACTS

**Pastor Donald Shoots**

*For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD. By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast. The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.*

**Psalms 33:4-11**

Whether we understand this entirely or not, in all things acknowledged or denied, **we have to do with God.** Accept or reject His government, yet His government *will* be administered. Christ told Saul, *“It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.”* (Acts 9:5) He is talking about the point of a plow here, the flesh of the foot against steel or wood. The government of God will march on because it was and is greater than flesh. We as Christians and Biblical people observe many activities in our lifetime which we will never fully understand. I speak of events that are beyond our abilities, control, and noted as or of spiritual origin. We observe the movement of things in life that we know are beyond us. It is here that our observation of God must involve great caution. For it is here that we can run aground because we judge God by what we think we know about what He did or is doing. Caution is needed here because if we misjudge God by what *we think*, our misjudgment can lead us to blame God. That blame will then begin to enter our hearts and minds and steer us away from pure trust in God. So I say to you, **why does God do what He does?**





## God does what He does because He is acting on His Word.

God Almighty acts upon His own Word. He *sent* His Word. His Word became flesh and dwelt among us. God does what He does because He is oftentimes simply, beautifully and dynamically working and acting off of His Word. Not your words, your thoughts, your feelings; but His. Man's acceptance or rejection of it, too, triggers acts of God. The flood in Noah's day is a perfect example of this. God knows what He has planned for tomorrow, and He sees what is today. God's ways are not our ways. This is a statement we may often say, but rarely does our behavior convey that we believe it. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. Again, we say that, but we don't believe it. There are too many people who live with a controversy with God, all the while holding a Bible. People will blame God for something that has happened because they don't understand. God acts upon His Word. He doesn't consult man about it. It's HIS WORD. He is not a man that He should lie. His Word was in existence before anyone of us were born. Before we obtained cars, money, and education, God was in the beginning; His Word was at the beginning of it all. There are times we would have been very wise and blessed to have simply rested in the Lord, knowing God is doing what He is doing because of His Word, will and purpose.

## God does what He does because He is acting knowing the hearts of men.

We do not know the hearts of men. We may see them in church, on the job, and in various functions, but at the end of the day, we do not *know* their heart. We can discern to a degree, but only God knows the hearts of men. God knows the intention and desires of the heart, whether they are on evil continually or on the fact of great sins forgiven. He knows their past, present, and future. There was a woman who ministered to Christ in the book of Matthew. The disciples had a question as to why she was doing what she was doing to Christ. (Matthew 26:8)

'Why is this woman putting this costly, expensive ointment on Jesus' feet? Why is she washing his feet with her tears and wiping them with her hair?' Jesus ends up having to correct them because He knew something they didn't know. John 12:7 states, "*Against the day of my burying hath she kept this.*" That's why Jesus let her do that.

## God does what He does because He is acting on men's prayers.

Have any of us heard all of the prayers of others? No, but God has! We see things happening, often never knowing they are the answers to someone's prayers. We don't know the prayer but God does, and He acted! One prayed that it might not rain in James 5:17. The thief on the cross asked for forgiveness. God heard, not man, and the thief was remembered in heaven! "*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*" (James 5:16)

## God does what He does because He is acting out of love.

God does what He does because He loves. The Bible states in Revelations 3:19 "*as many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.*"

'I don't know why God is doing that...I've been going to church for years and there are things about God I just don't understand.' If you allow those thoughts to take hold, you will begin to get frustrated in your spirit. Sometimes God acts out of the beautiful fact that He loves! Love brings about an action. Some folks see the rebuke and the chastening and move to



unsustained questioning, not knowing that it is a *product*, a *result* of love. Most of God's chastening is done in private. Why? God is acting in love. If we misunderstand it being an act of love, we will think God has done something wrong. He loves us, but He also rebukes and chastens *because of that love*. To see this happening is not always to discern it. Please understand, we may see something and not know why it is happening! The word, 'chasten' means to train, educate and discipline. So why does God chasten and hopefully rebuke all of us? Because He loves.



### God does what He does because He is acting on time.

As a young convert, I looked at many happenings wondering why God was doing it that way. I came to a place where God said to me, "The reason I do some things is that I am working off of a timetable, and you are not." When God created Adam and Eve, He looked through time and saw the rapture. While I was yet in sin, He paved the way for salvation. God told Jesus to tell the disciples, "*I go to prepare a place for you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*" (John 14:2/27) God is for us and He is always ahead; He is working on time. There is going to be a thousand-year millennial reign, not an eleven-hundred or nine-hundred, but a one-thousand-year millennial reign. There will be a seven-year tribulation, not an eight-year or six-year. Jonah was three days in the belly of the fish. Jesus Christ was three days in the grave. God always works off of time. We may throw the clock away, get blind to reality and to the soberness of this temporal life, but not God. He is working off of a timetable. He said, "*it is appointed unto men once to die.*" (Hebrews 9:27) No man has that book but God. Sometimes He does what He does because He is working off of the clock that He set into order Himself. Three days in the grave for Christ, or 40 years in the wilderness for Israel, is not incidental. He has a beginning and an end in His purpose. He will not always strive with men. He thus acts on His timing, which connects to His purpose and plan.

### God does what He does because He is acting for the sake of others.

Sometimes He does things precisely for the sake of others. We can become so self-centered! Selfishness can be a struggle even for the elite Christian. Sometimes God acts because of someone else. Genesis 26:24 says of Isaac, "*And the Lord appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.*"

'I don't know why they are blessed; I don't know why God gave them that;' but, Isaac was blessed for the sake of Abraham, not himself! In I Kings 11:12-13 God says to Solomon after his failure, "*I will not rend away all the Kingdom... for David my servant's sake.*" Psalms 23:3 says, "*He Leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake!*"

### God does what He does because He is acting out of His mercy, grace, love, and yes, His anger.

Our Father wants us to be cautious because we tend to judge God by what we **think** He did or is doing! Our small composite doesn't allow us to be able to think it out and approve of it. If caution and knowledge do not surface, we can even move to the dangerous place of blaming God for acting wrongly! "*God is angry with the wicked every day.*" (Psalms 7:11)



I hope this message brings peace. When you come to a place of misunderstanding or even to the place of wanting to blame God, may this message come back to your spirit.

Why does God do what He does? He does what He does because of His Word, because of the hearts of men, because of men's prayers, because of His love, because of the sake of others, because of His mercy, grace, love, and yes, even His anger. Trust God! "*Will not the judge of all the earth do right?*" (Genesis 18:25)

*We can trust God's acts.*

*Trust the Lord!*

# *Central Pentecostal Ministries*



*Worshipping God in the Spirit of Pentecost*

The purpose of this publication is to benefit those truly seeking to follow Jesus Christ. If you or someone you know would be encouraged and strengthened by receiving these Full-Gospel messages, please contact us at:

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