

The Christian Arsenal

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HOW TO BE BLESSED BY THE BIBLE Developing a Faith That Works

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Part 5 of 7
James 1:19-27

INTRO:

Last year there were 500 million Bibles published in the world in 18,000 different language portions of the Bible. Yet millions of people still miss the blessing of the Bible. Why? It's not automatic.

"The man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard but doing it, he will be blessed in what he does." James 1:25

THREE STEPS TO BLESSING FROM THE BIBLE

1. I MUST RECEIVE GOD'S WORD IF I'M GOING TO BE BLESSED BY IT (vv. 19-21)

"Accept the word planted in you ..." James 1:21

FOUR ATTITUDES FOR GOOD RECEPTION

- **BE CAREFUL**

"Be quick to listen, slow to speak." (v. 19a)

- **BE CALM**

"...and slow to become angry ..." (v. 19b)

A relaxed attitude increases receptivity.

- **BE CLEAN**

"Get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent" (v. 21a)

- **BE COMPLIANT**

"humbly accept the Word planted in you ..." (v. 21b)

2. I MUST REFLECT ON THE WORD OF GOD (vv. 22-25)

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“Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and after looking at himself immediately goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.” (v. 23)

God says a mirror reflects what we’re like on the outside, but God’s Word reflects what we’re like on the inside.

THREE WAYS TO REFLECT ON GOD’S WORD

1. **READ IT.**

“...the man who looks intently into the perfect law...” (v. 25)

NINE THINGS TO LOOK FOR: S.P.A.C.E. P.E.T.S.

S – Is there a Sin to confess?

P – Is there a Promise to claim? There are over 7,000 promises in the Bible.

A – Is there an Attitude to change?

C – Is there a Command to obey?

E – Is there an Example to follow?

P – Is there a Prayer to pray?

E – Is there an Error to avoid?

T – Is there a Truth to believe?

S – Is there Something to thank God for?

2. **REVIEW IT.**

“...and continue to do so ...” (v. 25)

*“Jesus said, if you continue in My Word, then you’re truly My disciples.”
John 8:31*

“I meditate on your Word all day long.” Psalm 119:97

“This book of the Law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein. For then thou shalt make thy way prosperous and then thou shalt have good success.” Joshua 1:8

3. **REMEMBERING IT.**

“...not forgetting what he has heard ...” (v. 25)

“Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee.” Psalm 119:11

“Write things down so we don’t let slip what we’ve heard.” Hebrews 2:1

U.S. Air Force study: We forget 95% of what we hear within 72 hours.

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3. I MUST RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD. (v. 22-27)

“Do not merely listen to what the Word says and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!” (v. 22)

The test of maturity is not knowledge. The test of maturity is character. A lot of people have great Bible knowledge and they are spiritual midgets.

We need to mark our Bibles, but we need to let the Bible mark us.

It's not how many times you've been through the Word of God. It's how many times it's been through you.

The best translation of Scripture is when you translate it into your life and let it change you.

“The man who puts the law into practice wins true happiness.” (v. 25) Phillips

Matthew 7:24-27: The wise and foolish builder.

John 13:17: *“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”*

I think the simplest definition of maturity is to be a doer of the Word.

We must not only read the Word, we must heed the Word.

THREE EXAMPLES OF PRACTICING THE WORD

- **A Controlled Mouth**

“If anyone considers himself religious and does not keep a tight reign on his tongue he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.” (v. 26)

- **A Caring Heart**

“Religion that our God and Father accepts as faultless is this, To look after orphans and widows in their distress...” (v. 27)

- **A Clean Mind**

“... and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” (v. 27)