



#88

Theme: "Application"

Scripture: James 1:22-25 NIV Life Application Study Bible

"Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in the mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like."

A Thought: There are countless times when we are exhilarated when the Word of God speaks to us - especially when things go swell. On the opposite end of the spectrum when times are tough we find ourselves not unlike our Exodus ancestors of Christendom...grumbling, muttering, whining and bellyaching. Forty years of wandering souls listening to the Word but not applying God's truth in their lives. Sound familiar? Oh yes, we faithfully attend Sunday services, even Wednesday evening studies. We may even tithe and possibly teach a weekly Bible study...true spiritual stewards of the Word. But like a light sheen on a fancy-looking piece of furniture the soft spiritual luster eventually fades away. Slowly to be sure. No fanfare. Our commitment to the Word creeps away like slow moving ominous clouds casting a shadow on our faithfulness. Subsequently the necessary and indispensable application of the Word does not take hold. James tells as much (1:25 NIV) *"But 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."*

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Is it time to audit your personal commitment and application to the Word?
- Do the verses of the Bible speak to you in a personal way? Or are they just words?
- From reading and studying the Word do you ask God to transform your life?
- Select one Bible personality in the Word which speaks to you the most.

Scriptures to read:

- James 1: 22-25; John 4:23; 14:6; 16:13-15; 2 Timothy 2:15; Titus 2:10; Heb. 12:1
- Colossians 3:16; 2 Peter 1:10; 1 Corinthians 4:16; Romans 13:14; Psalms 119:9

Quote: NIV Life Application Bible: *“Application is the step between knowing what the Bible says and doing what it says?”*

Bottom Line:

A generation so close to the promised land never to experience it all due to their lack of love, faith, commitment and application to the Word. The fact is the more we know the whole scope of God’s Word, the more wisdom will be bestowed upon us. So why is it so difficult for us to understand this undeniable truism? Think of it. We know in (**Exodus 13:21,22**) that God gave the Hebrews a pillar of fire and a pillar of cloud as his personal assurance that they will reach the promised land safely. The first Exodus generation still muddled along and never a toe stepped on the promised land. Our insurance? Duh! The Bible... all 66 books! Knowing the Word sans application of the texts in the Bible is not what God had in mind. After all, even Satan knew enough about the value of stones turning to bread, *“The tempter came to him and said, “if you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”* (**Matthew 4:3**). Don’t let the tempter nudge you into complacency. Satan hates doers of the Word. Dive into the Word, let the waves of study, prayer and meditation keep you afloat. In turn, you can apply and transfer the principles of the good Word to other lost souls. But first listen to the Psalmist’s pithy declaration. (**Psalms 1:2 NLT**) *“But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.”* Gents, select a day or daily sixty minute segment for a read that will transform your life. **NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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