



STAND-ALONE

MESSAGE

Application Is Everything

Consider this question: Is it possible to attend church and never see any real change in your life? Many individuals attend church services, Bible studies, and small groups regularly but do not experience significant or lasting transformation in their lives. This pattern is so prevalent James, the half-brother of Jesus, warns us about it in his letter and then gives us the key to access the life change we desperately need. In fact, when we follow through on what James tells us to do, God will bless us for doing it!

Discussion Questions:

1. What resolution have you recently or repeatedly made but failed to follow through with? What change have you successfully applied to your life? What was the difference?
2. Why do you agree or disagree with the statement: It is possible to be part of a church and never change. How have you seen this situation in your own life? In the lives of others?
3. **Read James 1:19-27.** Why do you think James sandwiched this section about “hearers vs. doers” in between topics like anger and orphans?
4. **Re-read James 1:22-25.** How can merely “hearing” result in “deceiving” yourself. How does the illustration of the mirror relate to you? Your life? Your faith?
5. **Read Philippians 3:16** and **Matthew 7:24-25.** In what ways do these two passages connect to James’ message about “hearing and doing”? What faith actions do you have the hardest time applying?
6. What is the “one thing” God wants you to do right now? Will you do it? (Remember: James reminds us that there is a blessing for “doing” it!)