



Shoe Leather Christianity

A Study on the Book of James

Lesson 1A | April 23, 2015 | James 1:1 – 18

Lesson Overview

If you took a survey of most followers of Christ, I would expect that all of them want to be successful in terms of obedience and doing what they know that are supposed to do. However, if we probe deeper and start asking questions about how they are doing, it is likely that most will admit they are far from where God has called them to be. If none of us set out to fail, what happens to us along the way?

I heard it once said that *success comes from training, not trying*. As we study the book of James, we will find a cause and effect relationship with regards to the choices we make in life. There is always a pattern associated with success or failure. Throughout this series we are going to focus on the following flowchart that represents the “progressive” phases of our Christian life; each phase of the Christian life is associated with the previous phase. **Environment** leads to beliefs; **beliefs** leak to thoughts; **thoughts** lead to actions; **actions** lead to habits; and **habits** lead to **lifestyles**. A phrase to help you remember this progression is *Every Boy Thinks About Hunting Lions*. Try and commit this flowchart to memory as it will be useful throughout the series.

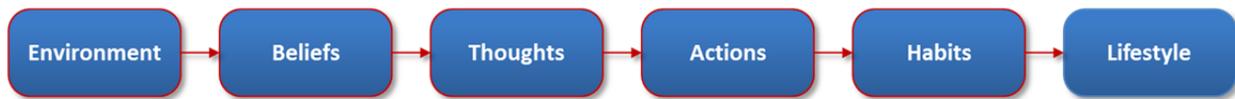


Figure 1: Progressive Phases of the Christian Life

1. The main theme of our study on James study is “Shoe leather Christianity”. When we say this what we basically mean is living the Christian life is where *the rubber meets the road*. Consider the “Progressive Phases of the Christian Life” flowchart shown above. In the table below identify some of the good patterns associated with each phase that will lead to success, as well as bad patterns that are likely to lead to failure.

Phase	Good Patterns	Bad Patterns
Environment		
Beliefs		
Thoughts		
Actions		
Habits		
Lifestyle		

