



Shoe Leather Christianity

A Study on the Book of James

Lesson 1B | April 30, 2015 | James 1:19 – 27

Lesson Overview

This week's lesson is focused on listening and doing. Verse 22 probably sums it up better than any other passage in this section of James, *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.* As Christians it is much easier to *talk the talk*, than it is to *walk the walk*.

Quite often those of us who follow Christ are labeled as hypocrites. Webster's dictionary defines a hypocrite as *a person who claims or pretends to have certain beliefs about what is right but who behaves in a way that disagrees with those beliefs.* As much as we might not want to admit it, when we study God's Word but fail to do what it says, we are hypocrites.

We can fool a lot of people, but the one group of people we don't want to fool is ourselves! As you dig into this week's lesson ask God to reveal areas in your life where He believes changes need to be made. You might be surprised what He tells you and what He does to help you change.

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. The key is to determine areas in our life where we are weak and seek the Lord's guidance in making lasting changes, not the temporary changes often associated with today's "boot strap" self-help approaches.

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** lead 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

