

Becoming Mature in Christ

Quit Kidding Yourself

James 1:19-27

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Introduction:

- As we contemplate our spiritual commitment to Christ, we need to ask ourselves some hard honest questions.
- Spiritual maturity can only result by you having a proper relationship with Jesus.
- Why do we research the newest diets, the sports we love, the hunting gear we like, but we do not go any deeper in the Word?
- **James 1:19-27**

1. Receive the Word:

- a. **Matthew 13:2-9**
- b. Jesus compares the human heart to types of soil in which the seed is planted. - **Matthew 13:18-23**
 - i. Hard Heart –
 - ii. Shallow Heart –
 - iii. Crowded Heart –
 - iv. Fruitful Heart –
- c. The biggest problem for most Christians is that we forget what our number one priority is in life.
- d. We often lose sight of the goal of the Kingdom of God.
- e. We are called to plant seeds and produce fruit for the Kingdom.
- f. There are two sayings that I love:
 - i. *“While man can count the seeds in a watermelon ... only God can count the watermelons in a seed.”*
 - ii. *“If everyone would win one, we could win the world.”*
- g. **Matthew 13:13**
- h. James tells us that we must be *“Quick to Listen.”*
- i. **Matthew 13:9**
- j. **Romans 10:17**
- k. The account of King David – **2nd Samuel 12:5-6**
- l. **2nd Samuel 12:13**
- m. **John 18:10**
- n. I once saw a poster – *“Temper is such a valuable thing. It really is a shame to lose it.”*

2. Practice the Word:

- a. It is not enough to hear it; we MUST do what it says.
- b. Too many Christians will make a mark in their Bibles, but they never allow their Bibles to make a mark in them!
- c. Reading God's Word is like looking in a mirror.
- d. James mentions three mistakes when people look in God's Mirror:
 - i. They just glance at themselves.
 - ii. They forget what they see once they look.
 - iii. They fail to change what the Word says to change.
- e. To examine God's Word requires time and attention.
- f. The reason why some do not like to examine God's Word too intently is that they are afraid of what they might see while they are looking.
- g. We need to remember that blessings come to us when we are doing what God's Word says, not just reading it.
- h. **James 1:25**

3. Share the Word:

- a. Share the Word of God with those who are lost.
- b. As the church, our number one priority is to share the Gospel.
- c. Sometimes as Christians, we will work hard, and not much will come from our work ... this year.
- d. But we will one day be amazed at the harvest that the Lord will bring in ... If we just keep planting.
- e. **James 1:26** - "How can we consider ourselves religious and not keep a tight rein on our tongue?"