



Series Life Tools

Passage James 1:16-27

Title Successful Living III

Speaker: Dave Menard 05/21/2017

Discussion Starter: As we look at the different life tools in James 1, we see differences among faith-building tools, those that give us better self-control and other tools that encourage us to “Engage”, that is, to step out and serve God and serve others. As you look into the mirror of James 1, how do you see God trying to grow you in your faith?

In Jesus You are Special to God (James 1:16-18; John 15:16; Titus 2:13b-14)

- According to James 1:16-18, we are reminded that every good and perfect gift comes from God and that He pursued us and adopted us into His family. What additional insight do we attain on how God desires to grow us once He has saved us, reading John 15:16 and Titus 2:13b-14.
- In James 1:18, we see that it is the word of God by which we are saved. What is the relationship between good works and God’s word once we are saved?

God’s Word has the Power to Transform Our Lives

Roadblocks that Hinder Us from Receiving God’s Word

1> Willfully Practicing Sin (James 1:21; Lamentations 3:22-23; Matthew 11:28-30)

- How do we evaluate the sin that is in our lives to see whether or not we are willfully practicing sin?
- What is the impact on our faith, and our lives as Christians, if we believe it is too hard to please God?

2> Thinking that Agreeing with God’s Word is the Same as Obeying It (James 1:22-25; John 5:39-40)

- Explain how James 1:23-24 uses the imagery of us looking into a mirror to reveal this specific truth?
- What example do we see in John 5:39-40 that reveals the danger of valuing Bible knowledge over godly character? How can we apply this lesson in our own lives today?
- Compare and contrast the imagery James is using in verse 1:25, as “one looks into the perfect law of liberty” vs. “one who looks into a mirror” in verses 1:23-24? How are they alike? How are they different?

3> Faith Without Deeds (James 1:26-27)

- What two truths does James reveal in the last two verses of this chapter? Which of the two truths has enabled you to experience more of God’s power in your life? Explain.