

## **The Essential Application.**

(James 1:22-25)

“The purpose in reading and studying the Bible is not to have us get through the Bible, but to have the Bible get through to us.” Howard Hendricks.

### **1. Applying God’s word is essential. (James 1:22)**

- a. Just hearing or reading the Bible is not enough.
- b. Under-applied knowledge can “puff” us up and deceive us, leaving us spiritually fat vs. spiritually fit. (1 Cor 8:1b, Ecc. 12:9-14).
- c. The truth remains, even if we try to ignore it. (Luke 6:46, Matt 7:22-23, Luke 12:48b)

### **2. Applying God’s word to our daily lives is the most neglected step of Bible study.**

- a. It is easier to apply scripture to others, not to ourselves. (Matt 7:3)
- b. It is easier to be saddened by our sin than actually doing something about it.
- c. Good intentions don’t do much good. (Matt 21:28-31a)
- d. It is easier to apply scripture to certain aspects of our lives but not all of our lives.
- e. We are really good at self-rationalization.

### **3. We can get better at personal application. (James 1:23-25)**

- a. Know the text.
- b. Know yourself. (1 Timothy 4:16)
- c. Relate it to your experience.
- d. Do it and see what happens.

### **Questions for Discussion and Application:**

1. What is dangerous about not deliberately applying God’s word when we study it?
2. How can “hiding God’s Word in our heart” (Psalm 119:11) help us to avoid sin? How have you committed yourself to memorizing scripture?