



PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR AN EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN LIFE
Lesson Three: Belief That Behaves
James 1:19-27

Rank the following behaviors in order of how reliable they are in pointing out true faith from 1-10

- _____ wears Christian T-Shirts and jewelry
- _____ has Christian bumper stickers on his or her car and drives the speed limit
- _____ give regularly and sacrificially to the church
- _____ participates in regular missions and outreach efforts
- _____ sings in the choir (sometimes even solos)
- _____ studies God's Word regularly and seeks to live it
- _____ attends church faithfully & on time
- _____ has healthy loving relationships with friends, family, coworkers and church members
- _____ prays fervently for the lost
- _____ remember all of the pastors sermons

1. Why did you rank the items as you did? What do you think are the best indicators of true, saving faith?

2. Are you a “doer” or “watcher” when it comes to spiritual growth and walk with God?



James 1:19-27

¹⁹ So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; (Proverbs 10:19,15:18)

²⁰ for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (Romans 11-14,1 Peter 1:22-23)

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (Matthew 7:24)

Definitions:

- Doers ~ (Greek poiete), is a matter of the whole being of a person is involved, mind, body, soul

- Hearer ~(Greek akroates), as someone sit passively in an audience and listen to a singer or speaker



²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Galatians 5:1)

²⁶ If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless. (Proverbs 13:3, 21:23)

²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world. (Deuteronomy 14:29, 24:17-18)



Life Application Questions:

1. Reflect on your life and habits. Do your actions show that you have received Christ and are following Him in Obedience?

2. When do you find it difficult to approach Scripture with a humble heart and a teachable spirit?
