

Discussion Questions:

When you need to change, where do you turn for help?

Why do we fail to examine everything in our lives from a biblical perspective?

What are some areas of your life that you need to evaluate biblically?

How do you normally receive biblical instruction that criticizes a practice or attitude in your life?

Why is humbly receiving biblical instruction difficult?

What sin do you need to put aside before receiving God's Word?

How does your attitude need to change about the ability of God's Word to transform you?

Burn the Self-Help Books

James 1:19-21

Everyone wants to change; they want to become something different than what they are now. Where do we turn when there's a problem? Where do we go for help? James is clear: the only real source of change is God's Word, and how we receive it makes all the difference. If we are to change, we must receive God's Word properly.

Be Aware

We cannot be lazy thinkers. We must not walk through life hoping that what we're doing is acceptable to God. No! We need to understand God's Word. We need to seek wisdom and knowledge. God commands us to know certain truths, and we are responsible for them.

Be Controlled

The knowledge we receive from God's Word will not benefit us if it we do not control our ears, our tongue, and our temper. We are far too quick to dispense advice, and far too slow to receive it. Even when we do stop long enough to listen, we often respond in anger. If what is told us doesn't stroke our ego or tickle our ears, we don't want to hear it. James provides us with a timeless truth: getting mad never helps us grow.

Be Receptive

The only way we will see real change—change from the inside—is when we put off our sin and humbly receive God's Word. It is Scripture that holds the key to spiritual life; nothing else can transform us into what God desires.