

Holy Fruit

James 1:16-27

I. Using the Bible to be more self-aware

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. *(James 1:23-24)*

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. *(Hebrews 4:12)*

Are you open to learning about yourself from the Bible? If not, why not?

II. Why do we bother?

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. *(James 1:16-18)*

III. How do we do it?

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. *(James 1:19-20)*

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. *(James 1:21)*

IV. Following through

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. *(James 1:22)*

Is there anything you need to do or stop doing?

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. (*James 1:25*)

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (*James 1:26-27*)