God Family Country

GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Is What I Believe Actually Changing Me?

Speaker: Shane Condon

Highlighted Scripture

- **James 1:22**

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

Shane uses this verse to draw a distinction between simply knowing God's Word and allowing God's Word to change the way we live. Scripture isn't meant to stop at agreement. What we believe should eventually become visible in our decisions, relationships, priorities, and actions.

Discussion Questions

- **Shane asks, "Is any of it actually changing me?" What's the difference between agreeing with biblical truth and actually being transformed by it?**

- **James warns that we can deceive ourselves by hearing God's Word without doing what it says. What might that kind of self-deception look like in everyday Christian life?**

• Shane points out that it's easier to recognize where someone else needs to grow than to ask God what needs to change in us. Why is self-examination often more difficult?

• Think about Shane's examples—how we treat difficult people, how we spend our time, and how we respond when things go wrong. Which area most clearly reveals whether our beliefs are affecting our lives?

• How can we keep Bible study and devotionals from becoming something we simply consume rather than something that shapes us?

Reflection Challenge

Don't finish this week's devotionals by simply remembering what you heard. Take something with you.

Ask yourself:

• What has God shown me this week that I actually need to act on?

• Is there something I say I believe that isn't reflected very well in the way I'm living?

• Is there someone I need to treat with more grace?

• Is something important—my relationship with God, my marriage, my family, or another responsibility—receiving less attention than I know it should?

Try this:

• Choose one truth God has impressed upon you recently and identify one action that would put it into practice.

• Before applying something you read in Scripture to someone else, ask, "What is God showing me about myself?"

• At the end of the week, don't only ask what you learned. Ask what changed.

• If God reveals an area that doesn't reflect what you believe, don't ignore it. Let that become your starting point.

Remember

• Knowing God's Word and obeying God's Word are not the same thing.

• Scripture should shape our decisions, relationships, and priorities.

• God's Word sometimes comforts us—and sometimes makes us uncomfortable enough to change.

• Self-examination begins by asking what God wants to change in us, not everyone else.

• Spiritual growth isn't simply knowing more about Jesus; it's becoming more like Jesus.

• What we believe should show up in the way we live.

Prayer

Father God,

Thank You for giving me Your Word. Help me not to simply hear it, agree with it, and move on. Show me where what I say I believe isn't yet reflected in the way I live.

When Your Word encourages me, help me receive it. When it

corrects me, give me humility to listen. When it reveals something that needs to change, give me the courage to act.

Keep me from becoming satisfied with simply knowing more about Jesus. I want to become more like Him. Let what I believe change the way I speak, the way I treat people, the priorities I choose, and the decisions I make.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.