

THE BACKSIDE OF OBEDIENCE (James 1:25b)

The backside of obedience is God's _____.

“bless” = to make happy

It's the actual doing that brings the blessing.
You are blessed in the doing.

Obedience is God's love language.

Words from Jesus

Luke 6:46 –

“But why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

John 14:15 –

“If you love me, obey my commands.”

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

“The measuring stick of our lives is the distance between when you hear something we know God wants us to do and the time it takes for us to actually do it.”

- Louie Giglio

Praise God for the obedience of Jesus!

GOD-BREATHED “Looking In The Mirror”

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU?

The greatest _____ for the greatest _____
in the Bible is _____.

“All true knowledge of God is born out of obedience.” – John Calvin

James 1:22-25 NLT

NO ONE LIKES BEING A FOOL (James 1:22)

“I pity the fool!” – Mr. T

A fool is one who is a hearer or reader of the Word but not a doer!

Fool = deluding yourself or cheating yourself by false reasoning

Attendance, good intentions and feelings of conviction are not going to give you the greatest confidence in the Scriptures – nor will they cultivate Christ-like character!

THE MIRROR (James 1:23-24)

A mirror has two primary functions:

1. Invite examination
2. Provoke response

Consider the difference between glancing and looking intently.

THE PERFECT LAW SETS US FREE (James 1:25a)

What is the perfect law?

How does obeying a law set us free? Don't laws restrict freedom?

God-Breathed: “Looking in the Mirror”

Passages: James 2:22-27

Date: Sunday 5/21/2017

Sermon-Based Life Group Materials

GETTING STARTED

Additional Media Content

Right Now Media (login needed – ask your group leader, or contact Matt at matt@risecitychurch.com): www.rightnow.org The Importance of Biblical Authority <https://www.rightnow.org/Content/VideoElement/150885>

[pursuegod.org](http://www.pursuegod.org) <http://www.pursuegod.org/is-obedience-better-than-sacrifice/>

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

“You’ll never know unless you try it,” a refrain that many parents have shared with their kids over the years. Obviously this usually applies to kids eating vegetables but this wisdom can be applied when it comes to the Bible. One of the greatest evidences that the bible is true is found in the application and obedience to its readers. The more you study and apply the Bible to your life the more you will find it’s life-giving words and promises ring true.

STUDY & SHARE

1. Read and reflect on James 2:22-27. Read through it slowly, verse by verse, marking the words and/or phrases that stick out to you.

Using the process of Observation, Interpretation and Application mentioned in last week’s notes:

- a. What are the commands to obey in this passage?
- b. What are the warnings to those who do not listen and obey the word of God?
- c. What do you find most difficult to understand and apply to your life in this passage?

2. Read Romans 6:17, 1 Samuel 15:22 and James 2:22. We are commanded not only to read the bible but also to do what the Bible says.
 - a. Do you currently, or have you in the past had a difficult time reading and applying the Bible to your life?
 - b. Is there an area of your life that God has revealed to you that you have been reluctant to address?
3. To look into a mirror is to reflect on who you are... what you see. The bible reflects who we are, who God is and how we measure up to that standard. We are called to “look intently,” which is to stop and stare.
 - a. What are some practical ways you can begin to reflect, or read and apply the Bible, more consistently to your daily life?
4. This week’s message shared with us the concept of the “backside of obedience being blessing.” Have you experienced this for yourself (why or why not)? What blessings are promised to those who obey?

GROUP CHALLENGE

Discuss as a group ways you can help keep each other accountable, over the next week, to study and apply God’s word to your life.

FOR PRAYER & SUPPORT

Read James 5:13-16. Apply what you have discussed in this series to this passage and apply to your prayer time.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

What did you find most interesting about this week’s message?

What didn’t make sense that you would like more clarity about?