

"LIVE IT"

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Illustration: MIRROR, two volunteers

(one "volunteer" prepicked, but don't let the crowd know that)

1st Volunteer: Looks into mirror than turns away from mirror.

Ask him/her what color is your hair??? Your eyes??? Etc... They will likely answer correctly.

2nd "Volunteer": Looks into mirror than turns away from mirror.

Ask him/her what color is your hair??? Eyes?? Etc...

Have them answer absurdly... not at all what they look like.

Hey guys, is that what _____ looks like??? So _____ are you telling me that you just looked at that mirror, and don't remember what you look like??? That's crazy!!!

That's what it's like when we read or listen to the Word of God, but don't do what it says. It's like looking in a mirror and forgetting what you look like. -Dismiss volunteers...

James 1:22-25 NIV

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. [23] Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror [24] and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. [25] But the man who **looks intently** into the perfect law that gives freedom, and **continues** to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.

1. Don't Just Hear It, LIVE IT vs 22

ASK: What is the purpose of God's Word??? To show us what to do. To guide us. To teach us the truth so we can follow it.

Psalm 119:105 NIV

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

When we read or hear from the Bible. It is like shining a flashlight on the path we're supposed to walk on. If we don't do what it tells us, it's like walking off the trail into the darkness. It doesn't make any sense. The word of God is there lighting the way for us, but it doesn't help us unless we follow it.

It's great to hear the Word or to read the Word... It's very important that we do, but just hearing it is not enough. We have got to follow the Word. We have to live it out or it's useless to us. Don't just hear it, LIVE IT.

2. KEEP YOUR FOCUS vs 25

Following God's Word is something that we need to do all the time. It takes work to keep your life in focus of the Word of God. It's easy to get distracted and caught up with other things. When we keep our focus on the Bible and continue to get it inside us, it is like we are shining that flashlight on the right path. The more we focus in on the truth, the more we will be able to live it. You can't do it if you're not constantly keeping it in front of you. You need to keep shining the light of God's Word on your path all the time. If you take the light off your path, you'll wander off into darkness. It's so important that we keep our focus on God and His Word. Reread vs 25 But the man who **looks intently** into the perfect law that gives freedom, and **continues** to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.

We are to "look intently" at the Word of God. That means that we focus in on it, study it, read it, or hear it. Let it get inside you... And then continue to live it out.

3. LIVE IT Every Day vs 25

If you want to have a life blessed by God, it takes consistency. If you focus in on the Word of God and then follow it day by day, nothing can shake you. Too many times Christians are like bobble heads. They can't keep their head on straight and they are back and forth all the time. They live for God for a couple of weeks, than when things get hard they give up. They do what's right for a while, and then when the temptation gets too tough they just give up and give in to the devil. God wants what's best for us. He wants to do awesome things in our lives, but if we don't live the life constantly, we'll miss out on the best.

Don't be a back and forth Christian. Take a stand, and don't give in. LIVE the LIFE everyday. It's easy to say you're a Christian, but it takes guts to keep the faith constantly.

YOU CAN LIVE THE LIFE!!!

Maybe you feel weak, or inadequate. Maybe it seems too hard to live for God. Maybe you feel like giving up. I think we all feel that way sometimes... I know I feel that way sometimes. But I know that you can make it in your walk with God. I know that every student and leader in this room can LIVE it out. If you want to live for God, He is standing right beside you to help you.

God has promised to help us through the battles of life.

Zech. 4:6b NIV

'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.

God has offered His strength to help us through everything we face. Each of us has different battles and challenges, but no matter what you are going through, you can make it through because God is with you!!!

Challenge: The challenge before us is this. God has called us to follow His Word and Live for HIM. Sometimes the battles are great. Sometimes we don't feel like we can make it, but God is on our side, and He is more than able to get you through the battle. Sometimes the Word of God challenges us to change. Change can be painful. It's hard to change, but God will help us. He is on our side.

Altar Call:

If you want the Word of God to impact your life, if you want to live the life for God, and if you want God's power to help you do it, come up here... and we'll pray together.