

James 1:23-24

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

One day there were two men up on a roof repairing it. As they walked along the roof they both stumbled and fell down the chimney. The first guy absorbed most of the soot that had accumulated in the chimney and his face was covered with soot and was black as coal. The second guy's face was fairly clean, because of the first guy absorbing most of the soot on his face. The second guy looked at the first guy's face and thought his face was black as coal as well. And the first guy looked at the second guy's face and figured his face was not that black and was actually fairly clean. Yet they were both wrong, because they were judging themselves based upon what they saw on each other.

Yet how often do we judge our personal walk with God and our Christianity based upon what we see in others. We look at other Christians and think we are not that good of a Christian, then turn around and have someone say how strong of a Christian that they think we are. Which one is right? The answer is that we must judge ourselves by looking into the word of God, not based upon the word of man, because only then will we see the truth. Just like the two guys who could only see the truth after they looked into the mirror. We too will only see the truth after we look into the word of God.

But also notice that James says in today's verse that we must not be just hearers, but doers of the word as well. "***For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer.***"

The first guy could have looked at the second guy, and based upon what he saw in him, would have walked around the rest of the day with a face covered in soot, until he looked into the mirror. But then he could have taken a quick look in the mirror and just walked away and did nothing about it as well.

Or the second guy could have told the first guy that his face was covered in soot, and the first guy could have told him that he didn't think it was that bad. So the second guy could have told him to look in the mirror and see for himself. So he would go look and see it and either wash it off, or... He could care less and walked away with soot all over his face.

You see, it would be the second guys responsibility to tell his friend the truth about the soot all over his face, but it was up to the first guy to decide if he was going to wash it or not. It's not the second guys responsibility to wash his friends face for him.

Also remember to check out what someone is telling you by looking into the mirror (the word of God), because if you don't, you could both walk around with soot on your face (living a sinful lifestyle).

† **Luke 6:39 And He spoke a parable to them: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?”**

Or someone may say something to you that is about sin in your life, and it's up to you to look into the word of God and see if it's true or not. But if you look and find it's true, it's your responsibility to do something about it, not the one who told you, or anyone else.

† *“For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.”*

† **Isaiah 1:16 Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil.**