

James 1:22-25

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 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. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

First, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year

Today's devotional may seem strange as you start to read it, but go through it and you will understand.

Original Nestle Toll House Peanut Butter & Milk Chocolate Morsel Cookies

Ingredients

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 2 stickscup butter or margarine
3/4 cup granulated sugar
3/4 cup packed brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 large eggs
1 2/3 cups NESTLÉ® TOLL HOUSE® Peanut Butter & Milk Chocolate Morsels
1 cup chopped nuts

Directions

PREHEAT oven to 375°F.

COMBINE flour, baking soda and salt in small bowl. Beat butter, granulated sugar, brown sugar and vanilla extract in large mixer bowl until creamy. Add egg one at a time, beating well after each addition. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Stir in morsels and nuts. Drop by rounded tablespoon onto ungreased baking sheets.

BAKE for 9 to 11 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

Wait a minute, that's a recipe of cookies. You are 100% correct. Nevertheless, there is a purpose for this recipe. When you started to read the recipe, could you almost taste the cookies and maybe you want to make them now?

But will you? Maybe yes maybe no, but your intentions were good.

You could also read and re-read through this recipe, but unless you apply it, the recipe really does you no good, because you cannot eat cookies from just reading the recipe, you have to read the directions, buy the ingredients, and then make them.

But how often do we do this with God's word? We read and re-read His word but never apply it to our lives. Like the example with the recipe, unless we do apply it to our lives, it really does no good. I say all of this because many will make New Years resolutions to read through the bible this next year, and many will start but not finish. The reason sometimes is because they never apply it to their lives.

Think of our recipe again, if you were to read this in a cook book and make the cookies, you would probably like them, so much so that you would read the rest of the cookbook to see what else you can make that tastes good.

It's the same with God's word, once you start to apply it to your life, you find that it's good for you, and you not only feel better, but also you start living a better life. Once you start applying it, you want to read more to see what else you can apply to your life.

So, keep your New Years resolution to read through the bible this year. But also, make another resolution, that you would apply God's word to your life as well!

† **Matthew 4:4** *But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "*