"Developing Spiritual Maturity in Relation to the Word" 1/23/11
James 1:19-27

James- Pressing on Toward Spiritual Maturity

The spiritually mature will: 1) be patient in trials/testing; 2) practice the truth; 3) control the tongue; 4) be a peacemaker, not a trouble maker; 5) be prayerful in various challenges (Warren Wiersbe on book of James)

POINT 1- Spiritual maturity to the Word comes when we RECEIVE

A. Receiving the Word involves having the proper SPIRIT
("teachable spirit"; Proverbs 10:19; Colossians 3:8-10; Gal 5:19-22)

B. Receiving the Word involves having the proper ATTITUDE
(Hebrews 12:1; Matthew 13:18-23- how is the soil of your heart?)

Going Deeper *God wants you to be eager to hear and receive His instructions!*

POINT 2- Spiritual maturity to the Word comes when we RESPOND

A. Responding to the Word means that we do not DECEIVE OURSELVES
(Matthew 7:21-28; Hebrews 4:12-13; study but no application)

Mark their Bibles, but not vice versa; Read Bible, but ignore the Bible reading them

B. Responding to the Word means that we do it CONSISTENTLY
(John 8:32; Matt 4:4; "he is blessed in his doing")

Going Deeper *God wants us to be scholars in obedience more than learning!*

POINT 3- Spiritual maturity to the Word comes when we REVERENCE

A. Reverence for the Word involves a devotion with pure SPEECH
(Colossians 3:8; Ephesians 4:29; 5:4; Matthew 12:36)

B. Reverence for the Word involves a devotion with pure ACTIONS
(Deut 10:18; 24:19; Phil 2:4; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Rom 12:1-2)

Going Deeper *God wants us to have a devotional life that actually accomplishes much!*

For next week: Please read James 2:1-26; 1 Timothy 6; Psalm 24.