## Dear Open Door Family,

Carol has been gone this week and completely out of contact. I have not been able to speak with her or email her. In this day age that is rather amazing. It made me think about the way that God communicates with us, and I have been impressed all over again with the fact that God's Word is the most precious gift that we have been given. Salvation is wonderful and the price Jesus paid for us is overwhelming when we consider it. But without God's written Word we would not have the ability to know the things that God wants us to know. Imagine if the only way we had of communicating with God and He with us was in the stillness of our thoughts. We would never have anyway of knowing if a thought that came into our minds was from Him, our sinful nature, or the enemy himself. We would have no measuring stick of Truth to hold up to the wild thoughts that come into our minds. God's Word is VITAL in our walk with Him. Let's look at these verses together.

James 1:22-25 (NLT) But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. [23] For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. [24] You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. [25] But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

Don't just listen to, or read, God's Word; that is not enough. James makes it clear that we are to let God's Word impact the way that we live. We MUST be willing to abandon our own plans, ideas, and thoughts in order to move towards what God is making clear to us through His Word. Too many times we read God's Word in a way that is the mere accumulation of knowledge, rather than an interaction with our Lord and Savior through the pages of His amazing Word written just to us. The following quote challenges us to think, and pray, and meditate, on the Truths of God's Word.

"Christian beliefs are not to be stacked in the warehouse of the mind; they are to be handled and applied to the challenges of life and discipleship. Otherwise they are incapable of bringing comfort and stability, godliness and courage, humility and joy, holiness and faith." D. A. Carson (How Long O Lord)

**PRAYERS:** Lord God, please help me, to be so captivated by You and Your Word that I immerse myself in it and allow it to Impact me on every level. Please Lord, keep me from ever going to Your Word simply to read something and get it over with, or to learn more facts about You. Help me to listen for Your voice speaking to me through the pages of Your Word. Please Lord, may Your Word come alive for me as I saturate my mind with it.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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