

Are You Just Auditing The Course?

Over-Coming Spiritual Boredom

Scripture Study:

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves”. [James 1:22]

Are You Bored?

- Have you ever gotten bored with church?
- Do the things of God sometimes seem ‘old’?
- Do you find yourself looking for “New Revelation” in order to ‘spice up your spiritual life’?
- Has the Word of God gotten to the point where you have ‘heard it all before’?

If you answered ‘Yes’ to any of those questions – then it’s time for you to examine the reason why you may have become bored.

Why People Get Bored?

The primary reason why people get spiritually bored is very simple: Knowledge without application eventually becomes boring – always!

If all you ever do is sit and hear, and hear, and hear the Word - without ever taking the necessary steps to do it in your life, then you will eventually reach the place where you have heard so much of the Word - that you are sick and tired of hearing it - And, instead of looking for what you might receive from the Lord you will begin to think thoughts like: Oh, no, another teaching on ‘such-and-such’ – “I’ve heard this before!”

You see the Word of God - is meant to be acted on. So if all you ever do is just listen - gathering more and more information - but never acting on what you’ve heard - You will eventually become so over-saturated that you won’t want to hear any more!

Actually, it is entirely possible that you have gotten to the point where nothing seems ‘fresh’ – where the Word of God has become so familiar to your ears that ‘there seems to be nothing new’.

Give Me Something New!

You are probably hoping that somebody (anybody) will come along and preach or teach you something that you’ve never heard before. You might even find yourself going from church to church, looking for someone - or something - to spice up your spiritual life.

If this sounds like you – you need face the truth: The problem is not the church, your pastor, or the kind of preaching you are hearing. The problem is you! You are bored because you're not doing the Word.

If you will simply do what you have already heard - you will find that it isn’t anywhere near as boring as you think!

- Yes - Doing the Word you already know will require that you develop a serious prayer life.
- Yes - Doing the Word you already know will require great discipline
- Yes - Doing the Word you already know will demand that you learn to crucify your flesh.

In fact, walking in the obedience that God expects of you will take every ounce of your attention, time, ability, and discipline. You will be so busy trying to do what you've already heard - that you won’t have the time to get bored!

Follow The Instructions: →

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Are You Just Auditing The Course Continued...

Follow The Instructions:

James 1:22 tells us: "**But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**" Notice the phrase "hearers only'.

This phrase is taken from the Greek word "akroates". It was used in classical Greek times to describe people who audited a class rather than taking it for credit. Much like students today who wish to further their education at a university by auditing a course – but they receive no credit for it because they don't actually do the work required or submit the work for grading by the teacher.

And in this case - these people were there just to hear the lecture - consider what was taught - and then later discuss it with others. But they had no intention of actually doing what they heard!

And, in addition to being mentally stimulating, these lectures could be very entertaining. So these "auditors" would go from meeting to meeting because they loved the excitement of hearing something they hadn't heard before – or maybe they just loved the 'special speakers'!

Even though these "hearers only" had no intention of applying anything they heard, they loved to get new information that made them look knowledgeable in the eyes of other people. They delighted in attending meetings just so they could be with the crowd -have a good laugh – get excited with everyone else – or simply to hear something new.

But they never actually put into practice what they heard, because they were "hearers only." They weren't listening to the messages to get credit for it. They were just there to get excited – or to have a good time!

A More Informative Rendition:

A more informative rendition of what James was saying in this passage is this: "**Don't be like those people who attend meetings and listen to sermons just for the purpose of getting information that makes them look smart in other people's eyes....**"

Since this is the background for the phrase "hearers only" as used in James 1:22, we need to take a good look at ourselves and ask some pertinent questions such as:

- Am I serious about the Word of God and applying it to my life?
 - Am I simply a hearer who has no intention of doing the Word – or am I doing something with the Word I've heard?
 - Does God consider me to be a hearer or a doer of the Word?
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In A Nutshell:

It is unfortunate that many people attend church, go to special meetings, read books, listen to teaching tapes, and watch Christian television regularly without results. They've seen a lot, heard a lot, and they really do know a lot - but they do little – or nothing with what they have heard.

This is why they become bored with the things of God. They don't act on what they've heard - or put into practice the information they have gathered – they have gotten over-saturated and as a result: spiritually numb.

Take Preventative Measures:

Make the decision to be a "doer of the Word and not a hearer only." Make it a point to apply the Biblical truths you've heard preached over the years - and let them begin to work in your life – and you can be sure that you'll never have the time to become spiritually bored again!

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Are You Just Auditing The Course Continued...

Recommended Reading and References:

- **Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary** of Old and New Testament Words: W.E. Vine
- **Interlinear Greek-English New Testament**: With Greek-English Lexicon and New Testament Synonyms: by George Ricker Berry
- **Sparkling Gems From The Greek**: 365 Greek Word Studies For Every Day Of The Year To Sharpen Your Understanding Of God's Word: by Rick Renner
- **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance** of the Bible with Hebrew / Greek Lexicons: James Strong
- **Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible**: New American Standard Bible: Spiros Zodhiates

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