

STUDY 21

HOW DO I STUDY THE BIBLE?

IV. THE PROCESS - B. Special Times Alone with God - 4. The Bible, Your Mirror

Before you begin your study today, ask God to help you take your mind off of everything else so you can focus on Him.

1. Now read James 1:19-27.
2. According to these verses, what hindrances may prevent God's Word from taking root and bearing fruit in your life?
3. What does James suggest as three essential steps in studying God's Word? (See verses 21 and 22.)
4. James 1:23-25 suggests that God's Word, the Bible, be used as a mirror in our lives. Reread verses 19, 26 and 27. Then look at your reflection in light of these verses. In the first column, list what God wants you to do according to these verses. In columns 2 and 3 compare this list (honestly) with your life in the past week.

God's Mirror (vv. 19, 26, 27) says God wants me to:	When did I do that in the past week?	When didn't I do that in the past week?
E.g., Bridle my tongue.	I didn't call my brother a bad name when he bothered me yesterday.	I argued with my mom last night.

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5. Now ask *God* to give you the ability to turn away from these sins. According to verse 25, obedience to the Word brings blessing and happiness. Ask *God* to help you desire to be obedient to verses 19, 26 and 27.

6. Close your time with *God* by asking Him to help you have the desire to act on His Word and obey it whenever you study it.

7. Before you leave this special time alone with *God*, review Philippians 4:6,7. Say the verses aloud until you can repeat them word-perfect without looking at the text. (To help yourself remember the reference, always say it both before and after quoting the verse.)
 7. Share what you learned during your quiet time with someone else today. Give away *God's* blessings!