

Perspectives

More than Head Knowledge

Cooking shows have become very popular in recent years. These shows range from simple ways to prepare certain dishes to novice chefs going head to head against professionals in some kind of cooking competition. I have to admit, whether it is a main dish or fancy dessert, I do enjoy watching to see what tasty delights they prepare.

As many shows as I have watched and recipes I have read, I still cannot cook (okay, maybe a grilled cheese sandwich). Why? Although I understand the directions given by the chef or cookbook, I have never put these instructions into practice. The truth is, cooking instructions are not meant for information only, they are designed to be used, to be put into practice. Just knowing what it takes to make a red velvet cake doesn't mean I know from experience what it means to bake one.

The Bible is God's Word to us in written form and reveals who God is and His relationship to humankind. It also reveals God's will regarding salvation and how we can live in relationship with Him and godly relationship with others. For believers, the Bible is God's guide for their spiritual journey. Reading and studying His Word gives us crucial knowledge in how to live life as God means for us to live. However, it not just about information, it's also about transformation.

James 1:22-25 says, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do." Studying and understanding the message of God's Word is important, but we must also put His words into practice, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and direct as we live daily in obedience to Him.

During this quarter, we will examine what the Bible says about forgiveness, God's will, stewardship, and more. Whether you are a new Christian or have followed God for years, take time to not only know what God's Word says and means, but also put its message into practice, allowing God's Spirit to transform your life in all you say and do.

May God bless you as you study His Word this quarter!

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