

# Growing Towards Christian Maturity

## *Lessons learned from the book of James*

### Lesson Seven: **Why Don't Some Christians Grow and Mature?**

Have you ever wondered how some people can come to church Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday evening, and to all of the activities in between and not seem to be growing? Maybe you know someone like this, or maybe you are someone like this and you have wondered what the problem might be. Today's Sunday School lesson is going to give us the answer.

Let's read James 1:22-24

According to these verses, what hinders a Christian from growing? BEING A HEARER OF THE WORD AND NOT A DOER OF IT.

What does it mean to be a hearer and not a doer?

As I was studying for this lesson, God reminded me of an example of this in my own life.

I seem to be VERY interested in exercise and eating right. I buy exercise videos, I joined the gym, I check out diet and nutrition books from the library and even read them, I talk about exercising and eating right, I have participated in the Weight Watchers program and enjoyed it, and I even had an online subscription to e-diets for 3 months. I loved reading the recipes and I agreed with everything that they told me.

But you know what? I never lost one pound. You know why? Because I am a hearer of those words and not a doer of them. And if the gym or weight watchers or e-diets ever tracked me down to look at my progress, they would realize that I am nothing but a fitness phony. All my efforts have done little more than caused me to deceive myself.

This is how some Christians are with the Word of God. They come to church and activities and they listen to what is being said, they go home and read what the Bible says, and some even talk the talk of the Christian life real good . . . but when you really stop to look at their growth as a Christian . . . you find that they are nothing more than religious phonies . . . deceiving themselves about their walk with God and Christian life.

I want us to read what God has to say about these kinds of Christian people (ones that are just hearers and not doers of the Word of God):

- Matthew 7:21-27
- Luke 12:46-50
- Luke 6:46-49
- John 13:15-17
- Romans 2:13
- James 4:11
- John 2:15-17
- Revelation 22:14

The Bible teaches us that DO what they are hear are the real thing because they have the real thing. Do you have the real thing?