

## “Mirror Scrimmage”

**James 1:19-27**

*Series: Faith that Works Week 2 Listening and Doing*

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A Mirror Scrimmage can be summed up in one word: Denial. Denial is serious when it involves a habit. What habits do you tend to deny?

God’s Word is a Mirror which reveals the honest truth about us.

Which of these are a challenge for you?

Pride, lying, gossip, secrets, prejudices, judging others, selfishness, self-destructive behaviors or desires, others.

The mirror of God’s Word can break through our denial and help us change. James shows us how.

### **Listen Carefully – James 1:19-21**

To welcome God’s Word into your life James coaches us to be:

- a. Quiet – How can you quiet your soul before reading the Word?
- b. Calm – What emotions and distractions do you need to let go?
- c. Clean – What sins or spiritual earwax do you need to clean out?
- d. Humble – How can you become willing to do what God says?

### **Look Intently into the Mirror – James 1:25**

God’s Word tells me I must make the changes. What change have you been putting off?

The Stockdale Paradox: You must confront the brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be **AND AT THE SAME TIME** Retain faith that you will prevail in the end, regardless of the difficulties.

God can help you change for the better but you must throw off denial, clean house, look intently at the mirror of God’s Word and do it.

### **Live It Continually – James 1:22, 25**

It is not enough to hear or say the right things. We must do the right things.

Practice Drills for the Game of Life – James 1:26-27

- a. **Prevent Hurt** – Make a Plan to avoid hurting others with words.
- b. **Provide Help** – How can you help the vulnerable & helpless?
- c. **Protect Your Heart** – Make a plan for spending less time in front of a screen and more time in Scripture and service.