

# FOR LOVERS ONLY - LOVE IS NOT CRAZY III

*False assumption III. “If I know the truth, I will grow.”*

*<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> 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.*

James 1:22-25

## I. Hearers of the word only

A. Hearing the truth alone never heals.

B. Some believe that if they know God’s word and study it, all problems will be magically solved. (Job 22:21,22)

*<sup>21</sup> “Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you. <sup>22</sup> Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart.”*

C. This usually takes the form of scripture memory, exegetical teaching, doctrinal purity, and personal Bible study.

D. The Pharisees were so busy studying the Scriptures, yet they missed the very one the Scriptures were pointing to. (John 5:39)

*<sup>39</sup> You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me,*

E. Truth without relationship sidesteps the healing God wants for us.

F. We can memorize the Bible in the original languages, and have no ability to relate intimately with others.

## II. Doers of the word

A. Put the Bible down and do what it says!

B. Christ dismisses the value of merely hearing his word.  
(Luke 6:46-49)

*<sup>46</sup> “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? <sup>47</sup> As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. <sup>48</sup> They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. <sup>49</sup> But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”*

C. Doers of the word...

- \* Get in touch with grief.
- \* Learn to forgive others.
- \* Are honest about their struggles, and confide in safe people.
- \* Take responsibility for their lives.
- \* Reconcile with others.
- \* Draw boundaries.

\* Are confessional leaders.

D. Jesus always emphasizes doing what he says. (Luke 8:15)

*<sup>15</sup> But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.*

E. Are you doing what you know, or are you just adding more information without transformation?

F. “If I know the truth I will grow,” is a lie. It never works; it can’t. Only doers of the word grow, mature, and find wholeness over time.