



Trait #17- Ignoring God's Word  
Day 1

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:13**

Have you ever sinned and come up with excuses for why you did it? Maybe you even blamed God for allowing you to be put in a certain situation? If you have kids and they do something wrong, do you correct them when they come up with excuses for their actions? You see, before God, you and I are the same way, except the roles are reversed (we are the kids). **God calls us to have a sincere heart.** Just like we know our kids are gonna dork up in life (just like we did), God knows we are gonna fall short of His mark. **However, being a Christian, our sins are already forgiven us (even the ones we haven't committed yet).** So where does that leave us? It leaves us with the issue of our heart (because God looks at our heart 'intentions' , not our performance; 1 Samuel 16:7)

**Read Matthew 23:13-36;** (This passage should be pretty familiar to you by now). See if you can pick out where the Pharisees were missing the mark?

Now do an inward search of yourself. Where are you missing the mark?

Look for things like; anger, hatred, bitterness, envy, jealousy, lust, pride, arrogance, and selfishness. These are heart issues, that most "action" sins are birthed from. (By action sins I mean, murder, adultery, theft etc.) James 3:14,15

**Read James 1:12-15;** This week we are going to see what we can do to put a check on the "heart issues", before they take us over



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**Read Psalm 51**

Praying is one of our most formidable weapons, and this Psalm is one of the most sincere heart prayers ever written. This is why David was a "man after God's own heart". David's performance here on earth was less than impressive, but his ability to turn to God after His mistakes and cry for help was something to be reckoned with.

**Read Psalm 139:23,24;** (Another of David's prayers). Have you asked God to Search your heart recently?

Sometimes we think we know ourselves, but it is God who can shed the light on the inward recesses of our heart. I believe the Psalms were written to show the kind of relationship God wants to have with us.

What is your prayer life like?

Do you go to God only when you need something from Him?

When was the last time you went to Him in prayer just to build on your relationship with Him? To talk to Him? Or to thank Him for your daily necessities?

**Read James 5:13-18;** Remember, the prayer of a righteous person (one who relies on Jesus' righteousness) is effective and powerful. **But**, he who comes to God **must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.** Hebrews 11:6. And, you can't doubt when you pray; James 1:6-8



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Another weapon that we have in battling an insincere heart is reading the Bible. (A discipline Keystone Church encourages all the time). What has reading God's word done for your life?

**Read Hebrews 4:12,13/Romans 10:17;**What does God's word say about God's word?

According to the above passage in Hebrews, how does reading God's word keep us from having an insincere heart?

According to modern science, mankind prides itself in being an "independent creature". Meaning "you" are a "god". You are what you make yourself to be. You can do anything on your own accord, don't let anyone tell you different. How does the bible contest this theory? And is this why Christianity is a highly persecuted religion?

In reality, all the bible is is God's love letter to mankind. Showing him the way, and revealing God's heart to His children.

**Read 2 Timothy 3:16,17;** List some things the Scriptures are profitable for:

During the end times Scripture warns that if possible even the elect will be deceived. How would having a knowledge of the Scriptures be beneficial to you as a believer during this time?



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So far; Things we can do to keep us from an insincere heart:

1. Praying
2. Read the bible  
and now:

3. Have someone to whom you are accountable

\* David had Jonathan. Paul had Timothy and vice versa. The disciples had each other.  
Whom do you have?

**Read James 5:16;**

We need to find someone whom we trust; to confess our sins to and to pray with. What does the last part of this verse say will happen if we do this?

**Read Matthew 18:19,20;** How many does it take for Christ to be in the midst of us?

Can you list some benefits of having someone in your life who will be completely honest with you and help keep you on track? (This person should preferably be someone mature in Christ).

**Read Matthew 26:36-46;** We see here that even our Savior had 3 disciples whom he was very close with. 3 friends to be there in His hour of need. (Hopefully your friends won't fall asleep on you though!). Find someone you can trust to help you on your journey through this life.



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Day 5

**Read Matthew 3:7-10;**

Repentance requires not only sorrow for past sins, but fruits (visible evidence of a changed life) as well. **For examples of these fruits of a changed "heart" see: Luke 3:9-14, Ephesians 4:25-5:2.**

Therefore, producing fruit is the same as maturing (growing steadily) in Christ. Not looking behind, but ever reaching forward.

Examine yourself. Meditate (to ponder by talking to one's self) and see if you are producing fruit?

And finally "putting feet to our faith":

**Read James 2:14-26;** Is your faith dead? Have you shown the love of Christ to another through your actions?

Putting "feet" to our faith is one way of showing the world we (Christians) are not hypocrites. That we are representing Him properly. Jesus came and was a servant to all. He is our example. Hence, we should do as He did. Are you currently looking for ways to help others? Some of us have time. Others have monetary excess. Stills others have skills: carpenter, mechanic, plumber, etc. Whatever your case may be..... reach out