



to theorize about possible applications, we must make changes in our lives. After offering the example of the man who looks in a mirror, James wrote, **“But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does”** (1:25). The blessings of Christ only come to those who see that changes need to be made, and make those changes!

### Conclusion

There is no doubt that certain Biblical texts seem obscure and inapplicable. What can we apply to our lives from the instructions concerning the table of showbread, Elisha’s death, or Paul’s imprisonment? The application is there, but we must do the difficult work to find it. Let’s study, meditate, examine ourselves, and act on what we find in God’s Word!



life conforms to His Will. Paul wrote, **“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!”** (2 Corinthians 13:5). This type of evaluation cannot be performed by anyone but you. Honest self-examination is crucial to appropriate application.

Finally, we must act. It is not simply enough

Faithful Sayings Issue 17.17 May 3, 2015

4700 Andrews Ave.  
Amarillo TX 79106  
806-352-2809  
www.olsenpark.com

## Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.  
Please come again.

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

17.17

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

May 3,  
2015



### Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM  
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

#### Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Kyle Pope

#### Deacons:

Steve Dixon  
Jack Langley  
Neil Ledbetter  
Brady McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott

#### Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Andrew Dow

## Making Application

By Andrew Dow

What does God expect us to learn from the directions He gave Israel concerning how to construct the table of showbread (Exodus 25:23-30)? What are we to gain from the historical record of Elisha’s death (2 Kings 13:14-20)? How does Paul’s imprisonment (Acts 28:16, 30-31) impact the way we live?

The examples I’ve just cited are a part of God’s inspired word, but it is not always clear how passages like these should be applied to our lives. I think the general tendency is to stay away from texts that do not come with ready-made application. Unfortunately, in doing so we neglect a wealth of inspired teaching. I’d like to use this article to address a few things about applying God’s Word to ourselves.

### God’s Word Is Applicable

Before we talk about making application, we have to understand that the Bible is an applicable book. Note what Scripture states about itself: **“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate [or “complete,” ASV], equipped for every good work”**

(2 Timothy 3:16-17, NASB). Where can we go if we want to become everything God expects us to be? **“All Scripture!”** Yes, that includes even the passages that don't seem as applicable.

The Bible shows its applicability by constantly telling us to add things to our lives (cf. 2 Peter 1:5-9; Galatians 5:22-23), and follow its teaching (cf. Matthew 7:21; John 14:15). As Peter instructed, **“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”** (2 Peter

3:18). Such growth can only occur when we apply the Word of God to our lives.

We can be confident in the fact that the entirety of God's Word is applicable. In light of what we've just discussed, I think we can make an appropriate inference: if we don't apply God's Word to our lives, then we are not using it properly! James wrote, **“If anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was”** (1:23-24). Inspired Scripture is not only applicable, but it is necessary that we apply it.

### The Difficulty Of Making Application

It's easy to listen to a preacher make application during a lesson. Preachers and teachers are always attempting to make God's Word applicable to everyone who might hear their lessons. This is often the most interesting part of a lesson, because it's where we hope to find some measure of practicality in the depths of Scripture. However, it is not possible for a teacher of God's Word to make application appropriate for every single individual's current situation.

What happens when the preacher doesn't speak about my issues?

It's also easy to make application toward other people. Have you ever sat in on a lesson and thought, *“I'm sure glad so-and-so is here to listen to this!”* Thoughts like this one are not helpful for your own growth or the growth of others. Although it's easy to point fingers and

make application for other people, to do so does not help you apply Scripture to you own situation.

The fact of the matter is, YOU have to apply God's Word to YOUR OWN situation. No preacher or teacher will ever know exactly what you are going through. No amount of finger pointing will make you a better Christian. Making personal application is difficult. It will take being truly honest with yourself about your strengths and weaknesses. It will require a willingness to change when you find something lacking. It will be the result of having an intense desire to live more like Christ everyday.

### How To Make Application

We know how important it is to apply God's Word to our own lives, but we also know how difficult that task is. With these things in mind, I'd like to offer a few thoughts about how we can work toward making personal application from Scripture.

First, we have to study God's Word. Simply put, you can't apply what you don't know! **“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth”** (2 Timothy 2:15). We must diligently handle God's Word if we expect to present ourselves approved to God! I have heard some speak as if there is in-depth study and then there is practical application. The fact is, you can't have one without the other! Proper in-depth study leads to practical application, and practical application only comes out of an in-depth study of God's Word.

Second, we have to meditate on God's Word. Meditating on God's Word seems to be an ignored aspect of study. We live in such a fast-paced, instant-gratification society that we rarely (if ever) stop to dwell on and internalize God's Word. The Psalmists spoke of this often: **“O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day”** (119:97). Passively sitting in on Bible classes and sermons will never be enough to take in the life-giving Word of God! If we truly desire to apply God's Word to our lives, we must internalize God's Word through constant thought and meditation.

Third, we must examine ourselves. This is, in my opinion, the most difficult part of making application. It is one thing to consider what God says, it is another thing to seriously contemplate whether my

