

# Session 5 – Application

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The third step of IBS is application, which answers the question, “How does the text relate to me?” The purpose is to take the meaning of the text and apply it to your life. “But prove yourselves doers of the word and not merely hearers who delude themselves” (James 1:22). Kay Arthur said that application takes place when you are confronted with the truth and respond to it in obedience; the glorious end is transformation.

## What does God want you to believe?

The **first step** of application is to answer this question: Based upon the main idea, what does God want you to believe? The section you are studying was written to help you think correctly (i.e., from God’s point of view). So from this section, what does God want you to know, understand, and embrace?

Now that you know what God wants you to believe, you want to begin believing it. Compare what God wants you to believe with what you currently believe by answering these questions:

- Is there something false that you need to stop believing?
- Is there something true that you need to start believing?
- Is there an existing belief that you need to change?

If the answer to these questions is “no,” then you already believe what God wants you to believe; rejoice and move on. But if you answered “yes,” then you need a plan of action. What concrete steps will you do to change your beliefs? Perhaps you need to memorize a verse from this passage. Perhaps you need to spend five minutes before breakfast every day this week meditating on a truth from this passage. Perhaps you need to share with someone who will encourage you to believe this.

As you work through your plan of action, it would be appropriate to pray and talk with your heavenly Father. Ask him to give you the faith to believe what he wants you to believe.

## Practice

Consider this CTT: Peter wrote 1 Pt 1:13-21 in order to command persecuted churches in Asia Minor to love each other eagerly.

What might God want you to believe?

What might be your plan of action for believing this?

## What does God want you to obey?

The **second step** of application is to answer this question: Based upon the main idea, what does God want you to obey? The passage you are studying was written to help you live correctly (i.e., from God's point of view). So from this passage, how does God want you to live?

Now that you know what God wants you to do, you want to begin doing it. Compare what God wants you to do with what you are currently do by answering these questions:

- Is there something you need to stop doing?
- Is there something you need to start doing?
- Is there an action that you we need to change how you do it?

If the answer to these questions is "no," then you are already doing what God want you to do; rejoice and move on. But if you answered "yes," then you need a plan of action. What concrete steps will you do to change your actions? Perhaps you need to confess sin to God or to someone else. Perhaps you need to avoid going to places where you are strongly tempted. Perhaps you need to begin practicing right actions in anticipation of a chance to do the right action. Perhaps you need to share with someone who will encourage you to obey in this area.

As you work through this plan of action, it would be appropriate to pray and talk with your heavenly Father. Ask him to give you the power to obey what he wants you to obey.

## Practice

Consider this CTT: Peter wrote 1 Pt 2:1-3 in order to command persecuted churches in Asia Minor to crave God's word.

What might God want you to obey?

What might be your plan of action for obeying this?

## Next Step

Begin applying this section to your life. While you putting it into practice, move on to the next section and begin observing it.