

James 3:3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they obey us, we direct their entire body as well. (NASB)

1. Two of the most important principles in learning how to apply the Word of God are humility, willingness to accept the authority of the Word of God, and secondly, the willingness to then apply what is retained in the soul.
2. In opposition to this is the soul's poor inventory of ideas and opinions by a believer who has not learned biblical principles beyond a few of the basics.
3. It is difficult for most to abandon previously held beliefs in favor of those of a quite different nature. Indoctrination from the devil's world is all a person acquires as an unbeliever and these are the resources by which he develops his moral compass.
4. When a person is saved, he has the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit available to him to learn the infinite thoughts and directives of the Word of God.
5. Far too often, the sermons from church pulpits are considered philosophical at best and the pastor's opinions at worse. When what is taught is not accepted as a direct proclamation from God, the power of divine thought is ignored while human viewpoint remains the facilitated standard.
6. The believer never advances in his spiritual life until he submits to this biblical imperative: The Bible is God's resource for one's conscience to consult for guidance in making good decisions from a position of strength.
7. Yet, the human soul contains free will. Until that free will—personal volition—is tamed to submit to God's will, that person cannot advance in the plan of God.
8. In essence, he is a spiritual rebel. He is saved, a member of the royal family of God, and will go to heaven when he dies. But he will have no meaningful impact in his spiritual life. He will become what James describes in *James: Chapter One* as "a hearer of the word and not a doer" (James 1:23).
9. This failure to respect and submit to the authority of the Word of God, learn its principles, submit to its imperative moods, and apply them to his life and circumstances results in James's summation in James 2:26b, "faith without works is dead."
10. The "works" James mentions refer to the inventory of biblical guidelines retained in the stream of consciousness of the soul. It is from this inventory that the believer's conscience must consult in order to determine how he may biblically apply truth to the situations he confronts.



11. A believer's ability to make good decisions is limited by the amount of divine thought retained in the soul. Volition is free. It is influenced by a lifetime of experiences, incoming ideas from various sources, and constantly bombarded by the sin nature's agent provocateurs.
12. The volition must be trained to do battle with the body in order to consistently execute the Christian way of life. If we are to become good soldiers for Christ, volition must be trained to behave.
13. We are condemned at physical birth. We are physically alive, but spiritually dead. We are infected in every cell by the sin nature. Our free will is completely self-centered. Our souls are vacuous of divine thought. Our environment is the battlefield of the devil's world where the angelic conflict rages.
14. The soul is the place where information can be acquired, retained, and ultimately applied. It is the divinely prepared receptacle for absolute truth, but that truth must first be approved for retention and application.
15. People speak a lot about love. But for love to have meaning and purpose, it must be a resource residing in the soul instead of an emotion influenced by human viewpoint.
16. To love others, one must first learn how God loves us. His love is not emotional. It is the product of three composites: righteousness (absolute truth), justice (defender of that truth), and omniscience (certification that all the facts are in) and administered under the policy of grace.
17. God honors His Word whose content is the absolute truth of divine righteousness. God is fair which is administered by divine justice. God's truth never deviates. Justice honors God's truth, approving compliance while disciplining deviations from it.
18. When the believer acquires a significant inventory of God's righteous standards, it empowers his volition to make good choices from that position of strength.
19. When inevitably, the believer fails to apply the truth but opts for human viewpoint, divine justice disciplines the believer, challenging him to adjust his decision-making process.
20. It is from an advanced collection of divine truth that the believer is gradually but ultimately enabled to become a good soldier for Christ.
21. His volition has been trained to resist the temptations of the body while giving authority to the soul as his resource for making good decisions.



22. This is the place where the body is brought under control. Volition is the key, but it must be trained to behave and when the believer comes to the realization that the Word of God is more powerful than the exigencies he faces, then he buys into the program.
23. No longer rebellious toward the truth, he now is converted to a follower and doer of it. This is the end result James recommends in:

James 1:25 But the one who looks with an earnest desire to absorb in detail the perfect law of freedom, and continues to live in close proximity to it, not having become a forgetful hearer only, but a doer, this man shall acquire unalloyed happiness by the production of divine good. (EXT)

24. This describes victory over the body accomplished by volition's submission to working objects. Paul expresses his arrival at this spiritual status in:

1 Corinthians 9:27 I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified. (NASB)

25. We learned from *James: Chapter Two* the absolute imperative that the believer cannot efficiently perform as a good witness for the Prosecution unless he acquires and enlarges his inventory of working objects in the stream of consciousness of his soul.
26. It is this inventory of divine thought that gradually, over time, trains his volition to choose the application of truth to the issues of his day rather than human viewpoint, personal opinion, and even evil.
27. In the study, *The Way to Santa Fé*, we learned about the blazing of wheel-tracks by the continuous repetition of wagon wheels over the course of the trail.
28. The more repetitions by the various trains, the deeper the wheel-tracks became. Wagon masters of subsequent trains knew the best, quickest, and sometimes safest way to get to Santa Fé was just by repeating what others had already done.
29. This sequence of events may be illustrated by the verb **facilitate**: "To make easier," and the noun **facilitation**: **1.** "The act or action of facilitating: *the facilitation of effective learning.* **2.** "*Physiology* **a.** The lowering of the threshold for propagation of a neuron's action potential. **b.** The enhancement of a neuron to a stimulus due to prior repeated stimulation."⁴

⁴ *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, 5th ed. (2016), s.vv. "facilitate, facilitation."