

James 1:18-27

Doers Not Just Hearers

Welcome back and here we go!

Today we are in our third installment of James. Chapter One has three basic principles:

1. Faith / Coping in Trials
2. Faith / Coping in Temptation
3. Faith in Action --- Connecting with the Word!

It is interesting because we will revisit these topics later in James.

James 1:18-27

Four times in these verses our relationship with the Word is brought in, so our answers today will be a reflection of that implanted word within us!

- 1) What are these verses about?

Obviously, there are several angles or concepts included. But I think the main idea is action --- putting our faith into action --- something we will explore more in Chapter Two --- *Faith Without Works!*

James 1:19-20

- 2) What does It mean to be *swift to hear and slow to speak* and why is this important?

I think the slow to wrath part is important as well. The whole idea is that the “Implanted Word” should be how we are responding to the trials and temptations that arise in our worldly day to day interactions with people. The idea is that our responses will not be worldly, rather they will be spiritual. How often has our tongue got us into trouble?

“I should not have spoken so quickly!”

These are words we use often. It really is about discipline, discipline to what the Word has to say and teach!

James 1:22-25 *²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

- 3) What is the difference between a “Doer” and a “Hearer”?
Which are you?

When I think of people who are just hearers only, I think of people who are not changing. Many times people get to a place of comfort in their walk and are satisfied to stay right there. For me, service to others is the real test. A litmus test so to speak; not for salvation, but for maturity. Has the Spirit compelled you to do for others?

Or maybe your change is in personal habits, self-control. We actually have to start there.

1 Corinthians 13:11-13 ¹¹*When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.* ¹²*For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.* ¹³*And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

Paul also alludes to the fact that we often don't see clearly.

- 4) How could you become more of a Doer?

Yes, it is a blatant challenge. Giving of time --- that is the key!

James 1:26-27 ²⁶*If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.* ²⁷*Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*

- 5) What does this mean to you personally?

Boy --- “*this person's religion is useless!*” --- very harsh words. It's another way of saying --- all talk, no action. James does not mince his words. It actually harkens back to the beginning of our study today --- swift to hear --- slow to speak. These are like bookends. On one hand do not be harsh in your words to cause wrath and on the other, do not talk the talk and never do the walk.

The real question today is:

- 6) (private) Where are you advancing and where are you stagnant?

James is a works-oriented book, but the truth is, shouldn't something change?

Let's pray.