



Let's Get it  
Together!

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## James 1:19–27 (NKJV)

19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;



24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 But 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.

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.



# Let's Get It Together

- The emphasis in this section is on the dangers of self-deception: “deceiving your own selves” (*James 1:22*); “deceives his own heart” (*James 1:26*).
- If a Christian sins because Satan deceives him, that is one thing. But if he deceives himself, that is a much more severe matter.



- Some true believers are fooling themselves concerning their Christian walk.
- They think they are spiritual when they are not. It is a mark of maturity when a person faces himself honestly, knows himself, and admits his needs.

It is the immature person who pretends:

### Revelation 3:17 (NKJV)

Because you say, **'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'**—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

- “I don’t think God agrees with the term fake it ‘till you make it.”



# We Must Be Real About Our Spiritual Make Up

- Spiritual-reality results from the proper relationship we have with God through His Word.
- God's Word is truth (*John 17:17*), and if we are rightly related to God's truth, we cannot be dishonest or hypocritical.
- In these verses, James stated that we have responsibilities toward God's Word; and if we fulfill these responsibilities, we will have an honest walk with God and men.



# Receive the Word (James 1:19–21)

## James 1:19–21 (NKJV)

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**20** for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

**21** Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

- James calls God’s Word “the implanted word.”
- He is borrowing from our Lord’s Parable of the Sower (*Matt. 13:1–9, 18–23*), he compares God’s Word to seed and the human heart to the soil.



# Receive the Word (James 1:19–21)

- In His parable, Jesus described four kinds of hearts:
  - (1) *the hard heart*, which did not understand or receive the Word and therefore bore no fruit;
  - (2) *the shallow heart*, which was very emotional but had no depth, and bore no fruit;
  - (3) *the crowded heart*, which lacked repentance and permitted sin to crowd out the Word;
  - (4) *the fruitful heart*, which received the Word, allowed it to take root, and produced a harvest of fruit.





**The Final Test Of Salvation Is  
Fruit. This Means A Changed  
Life, Christian Character And  
Conduct, And Ministry To  
Others In The Glory Of God.**



# This Fruit Might Be:

## Winning Souls To Christ (Rom. 1:16)

### Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

## Growing In Holy Living (Rom. 6:22)

### Romans 6:22 (NKJV)

But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.



# This Fruit Might Be:

## Sharing Our Material Possessions (Rom. 15:28)

### Romans 15:28 (NKJV)

Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.

## Spiritual Character (Gal. 5:22–23)

### Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.



## Good Works (Col. 1:10)

### Colossians 1:10 (NKJV)

that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

## Praising The Lord (Heb. 13:15).

### Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.



- Real fruit has the seed for more fruit so that the harvest continues to grow fruit, more fruit, much fruit (*John 15:1–5*).

## John 15:1–5 (NKJV)

1 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.



# The Word of God cannot work in our lives unless we receive it in the right way.

- Jesus not only said, “Take heed what you hear” (*Mark 4:24*), but He also said, “Take heed how you hear” (*Luke 8:18*).
- Too many people are in that tragic condition in which “hearing they hear not, neither do they understand” (*Matt. 13:13*).
- They attend Bible classes and church services but never seem to grow. Is it the fault of the teacher or the preacher? Perhaps, but it may also be the fault of the hearer.



- It is possible to be “dull of hearing” (Heb. 5:11) because of the decay of the spiritual life.

### Hebrews 5:11 (NKJV)

of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

**Dull - νωθρός [*nothros /no-thros/*] adj. *It is to be slow, sluggish, lethargic, dull, and unenergetic.***

- We are not energized by the word because we are not allowing it in our hearts.
- If the seed of the Word is to be planted in our hearts, then we must obey the instructions James gives us.



# Swift To Hear (v. 19a)

**James 1:19 (NKJV)** So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

**Matthew 13:9 (NKJV)** He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

**Romans 10:17 (NKJV)** So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- Just as the servant is quick to hear his master’s voice, and the mother to hear her baby’s smallest cry, so the believer should be quick to hear what God has to say.





# Slow To Speak (v. 19b)

- We have two ears and one mouth, which ought to remind us to listen more than we speak.
- Too many times, we argue with God's Word, if not audibly, at least in our hearts and minds.

**Proverbs 10:19 (NKJV)** In the multitude of words sin is not lacking,  
But he who restrains his lips is wise.

**Proverbs 17:27 (NKJV)** He who has knowledge spares his words,  
And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.



# Slow To Speak (v. 19b)

- Instead of being slow to speak, the lawyer in Luke 10:29 argued with Jesus by asking, “And who is my neighbor?”
- In the early church, the services were informal; and often, the listeners would debate with the speaker.
- There were even fights and wars among the brethren James was writing to (James 4:1).
- All of this in the religious service.



# Slow to Wrath (v. 19c)

**Wrath – ὀργή [orge /or-gay/] n f.** It is anger, the natural disposition, temper, and character. It is movement or agitation of the soul, impulse, desire, any violent emotion, and with indignation. It desires to inflict punishment.

- Do not get angry at God or His Word.

**Proverbs 14:29 (NKJV)** He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly.



# Slow to Wrath (v. 19c)

- Many fights are the result of short tempers and hasty words.
- There is a godly anger against sin (Eph. 4:26), and if we love the Lord, we must hate sin (Ps. 97:10).
- But man's anger does not produce God's righteousness (James 1:20).

**James 1:20 (NKJV)** for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

- Anger is just the opposite of the patience God wants produce in our lives as we mature in Christ (James 1:3–4).



- Someone once said; “Temper is such a valuable thing; it is a shame to lose it!”
- It is temper that helps to give steel its strength.
- The person who cannot get angry at sin does not have much strength to fight it.
- James warns us against getting angry at God’s Word because it reveals our sins to us.
- Like the man who broke the mirror because he disliked the image in it, people rebel against God’s Word because it tells the truth about them and their sinfulness.



# A Prepared Heart (v. 21)

## James 1:21 (NKJV)

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.



# A Prepared Heart (v. 21)

- James saw the human heart as a garden; if left to itself, the soil would produce only weeds. He urged us to “pull out the weeds” and prepare the soil for the “implanted Word of God.” The phrase in the King James Version – “superfluity of naughtiness” gives the picture of a garden overgrown with weeds that cannot be controlled.
- It is foolish to try to receive God’s Word into an unprepared heart.



# A Prepared Heart (v. 21)

- How do we prepare the soil of our hearts for God's Word? First, by confessing our sins and asking the Father to forgive us *(1 John 1:9)*.
- Then, by meditating on God's love and grace and asking Him to "plow up" any hardness in our hearts, "Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns" *(Jer. 4:3)*.





# A Prepared Heart (v. 21)

- Finally, we must have an attitude of “meekness” (James 1:21). Meekness is the opposite of “wrath” in James 1:19–20.
- When you receive the Word with meekness, accept it, do not argue with it, and honor it as the Word of God. You do not try to twist it to conform it to your thinking.
- If we do not receive the implanted Word, then we are deceiving ourselves.
- Christians who like to argue various “points of view” maybe only fooling themselves. They think that their “discussions” promote spiritual growth, when in reality, they may only be
- cultivating the weeds.



# Practice The Word (James 1:22–25)

## James 1:22–25 (NKJV)

**22** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

**23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

**24** for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

**25** But 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.



# Practice The Word (James 1:22–25)

- It is not enough to hear the Word; we must do it.
- Many people have the mistaken idea that hearing a good sermon or Bible study is what makes them grow and get God's blessing.
- It is not the hearing, but *the doing* that brings the blessing.
- Too many Christians mark their Bibles, but their Bibles never mark them!
- If you think you are spiritual because you hear the Word, then you are only kidding yourself.
- In the previous paragraph, James compared the Word to seed; but in this paragraph, he compared it to a mirror.



# Examination (vv. 23–25)

- This is the primary purpose of owning a mirror to see yourself and make yourself look as clean and neat as possible. As we look into the mirror of God's Word, we see ourselves as we are.
- James mentions several mistakes people make as they look into God's mirror.



# Examination (vv. 23–25)

- First, *they merely glance at themselves*. They do not carefully study themselves as they read the Word.
- Many sincere believers read a chapter of the Bible each day, but it is only a religious exercise, and they fail to profit from it personally.
- Their conscience would bother them if they did not have their daily reading when their conscience should bother them *because they read the Word carelessly*. A hasty reading of the Bible will never reveal our deepest needs. It is the difference between a candid photo and an X-ray.



# Examination (vv. 23–25)

- The second mistake is that *they forget what they see*. If they were looking deeply enough into their hearts, what they would see would be unforgettable!
- “Woe is me! for I am undone!” (Isa. 6:5) Peter cried, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” (Luke 5:8).
- Job was the most righteous man on earth in his day, yet he confessed, “I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6).



# Examination (vv. 23–25)

- Mistake number three is: *they fail to obey what the Word tells them to do.*
- They think that *hearing* is the same as *doing*, and it is not.
- We Christians enjoy substituting *reading* for *doing* or even *talking* for *doing*.



# Let's Get It Together!

- If we are to use God's mirror profitably, then we must gaze into it carefully and with serious intent (James 1:25).
- No quick glances will do. We must examine our own hearts and lives in the light of God's Word. This requires time, attention, and sincere devotion.

