

Be Doers of the Word

James 1:18-27

May 29, 2022 | Ken Lewis, Legacy Ministry Pastor

BIG IDEA: Being a doer of the word displays living faith.

To be a doer of the word:

I. You must be regenerated by the word (1:18)

James 1:18 | “Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

1 Peter 1:3, 23 | “3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;”

II. You must be eager to hear the word (1:19-20)

1. Quick to hear and slow to speak (v. 19abc)

James 1:19abc | “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;”

2. Slow to anger (v. 19d-20)

James 1:19d-20 | “...slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

1 Peter 2:1-3 | “1 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good”

III. You must be repenting from sin (1:21a)

James 1:21a | “Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness...”

Romans 13:12-14 | “12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”

IV. You must be receiving the word with meekness (1:21b-27)

1. Receive the word (v. 21b)

James 1:21b | “...and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 | “16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

2. Two responses to the word (1:22-27)

i. A hearer who forgets the word and is deceived (vv. 22-24).

James 1:22 | “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

1 John 2:3-6 | “3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says ‘I know him’ but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”

Mirror metaphor (vv. 23-24)

James 1:23-24 | “23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.”

“Scripture will expose your weaknesses, flaws and failures. But remember this – the Cross of Christ liberates you from fear of that exposure, because the grace of the Cross has made provision for everything the Bible reveals about you.”

- Paul Tripp

ii. A hearer who does the word and is blessed (vv. 25-27)

James 1:25 | “But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

Psalm 19:11 | “Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.”

- Which one characterizes you?

<u>Hearer only</u>	<u>Doer</u>
- Look	- Look
- Forget	- Act
- Deceived	- Blessed

- Develop into a doer:

- By studying the word carefully (v. 25a)

James 1:25a | “But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty,”

Hebrews 5:14 | “But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”

- By abiding in the word continually (v. 25b)

James 1:25b | “...and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

John 8:31-32 | “31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’”

- Ponder God's word:
 - Is there a sin to forsake?
 - Is there a promise to claim?
 - Is there a command to obey?
 - Is there an example to follow?
 - Is there something to share with someone else?

- Obey God's word:

- Control your tongue (v. 26; Ch. 3)

James 1:26 | "If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless."

- Care for the needy (v. 27ab; Ch. 2)

James 1:27ab | "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction,"

1 John 3:17-18 | "17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?
18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

- Fight for purity (v. 27b; 4:13-5:6)

James 1:27c | "...and to keep oneself unstained from the world."