



Welcoming the Word and Doing It

James 1:21-25

August 9, 2026

Pastor Vaughn

1. The directive: be doers of the Word

James 1:21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and [all] that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

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

24 for [once] he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

2. A warning of danger for taking the Word lightly

25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the [law] of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

NASB

3. A declaration of blessing for those who become doers of the Word

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others. For more information about Koinonia Groups at Heritage Church that utilize these questions as the basis for their discussion, please see Pastor Vaughn or e-mail Vaughn@hcgj.org.

1. In the message, Pastor Vaughn said that orthodoxy apart from obedience to the word never caused anyone to grow in holiness. Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. Why does the accumulation of biblical knowledge bring with it great accountability?
3. What does it mean to be merely a hearer of the word? What does it mean to be a doer of the word?
4. When, according to the message, was the word implanted in the Christian?
5. Simultaneously, James urges us in 1:21 to take urgent action to put aside sins and to receive (welcome) the implanted word. Does welcoming the word in fact help us to put sins aside? How?
6. In the message, Pastor Vaughn suggested that a professing believer who is merely a hearer of the word and is unaffected by it, with little desire to do what it says, can claim only scant assurance of salvation. Do you agree? Why or why not? Interact with 1:22b-24 in your answer.
7. Read v. 25. Why do you think that the "effectual doer" is certain to be blessed in what he does?

Here are some resources that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Vaughn cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Blomberg, Craig L. and Miriam J. Kawell. **Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament V 16**. Zondervan 2008.
Hughes, Kent R. **James, Faith That Works**. Crossway, 1991.
Lenski, Richard C.H., **The Interpretation to the Epistle to the Hebrews and the Epistle of James**. Augsburg Fortress, 1946, 2008.
MacArthur, John. **The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: James**. Moody Publishers, 1998.
Moo, Douglas J. **The Letter of James**. Intervarsity, 1985.
Varner, William. **The Book of James, A New Perspective**. Kress, 2010.
Zodihates, Spires. **The Work of Faith**. Eerdmans 1959.

Streaming of both the audio and video of today's sermon is available on the Heritage website (HCGJ.org) and App (Heritage GJ). The App can also be found on YouTube, RokuTV, AppleTV, GoogleTV, FireTV, and CarPlay. Podcasts for Heritage Church can also be found on your favorite provider.