



Living Under the Word

James 1:18-27

6/9/2019

GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

To catch the weekend message, go to the [MTC App](#), or [MissionTrailsChurch.com](#).

GETTING STARTED

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, **was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, inspired or confused you?**

DIGGING DEEPER

2. **Read James 1:18-27**

Considering verse 19, why is it important for us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry," and how does this relate to our ability to listen to and hear God's word?

3. Verses 20-21 talk about a "righteous life" and getting rid of evil and "moral filth" that is prevalent. **How have you found your life HUMBLED under God's word in these purifying ways?**

4. Verse 22 says that we shouldn't just hear (or read) God's word, but "do what it says". **Can you describe a way in which your life has been SHAPED by God's word, because you began to "do what it says?"**

How are people tempted when things go terribly?

GETTING PERSONAL

5. Read verse 27 again together. In first-century Israel, orphans and widows were particularly vulnerable because the social safety net in the society operated in and through family networks. There were not social workers and orphanages to care for orphans, and many widows without a family network had extremely limited means of income.

What are modern day examples of "orphans and widows" and what does it look like for you, and for the church, to "look after them in their distress?"

BRINGING IT HOME

6. **Read John 8:34-36 together.**

³⁴ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

During the sermon we made this statement in closing: *"In real life, freedom is not the ABSENCE of restrictions; it's finding the RIGHT restrictions."* It's like this in love. If we love someone, we are not free to do whatever we want. In love, a husband binds himself to his wife, and she to him, and in doing so, because of love, they LIMIT themselves. Real love binds itself to another, and so it is a false concept to say that *"true freedom is the absence of restrictions."*

How have you experienced putting yourself under Christ, and under God's word, and walking in the Spirit to bring you true freedom?

PRAY TOGETHER

James 1:18-27

¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. ¹⁹ My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

²⁶ If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



Living Under the Word

James 1:18-27

6/9/2019

YOU'LL BE **HUMBLED** BY THE WORD.

If the Bible is the fully **AUTHORITATIVE** word of God, then of course it would **OFFEND** you at some point.

YOU'LL BE **SHAPED** BY THE WORD.

1. "Here's how you know whether or not your religion is a sham: do you care about the most **VULNERABLE** people?"
Isaiah 1:13-17
2. Are you pursuing personal **PURITY** and holiness?
Amos 2:7

YOU'LL BE **LIBERATED** BY THE WORD.

Four ways in which the word of God operates in our life, day by day, to change us:

1. **RATIONALITY.**
2. **PERSONALLY.**
Hebrews 4:12
3. **VOLITIONALLY.**
4. The word of God brings blessing that gives **FREEDOM.**
 - You are free when you have been **RELEASED** to be truly what you were **DESIGNED** to be.
 - In real life, freedom is not the **ABSENCE** of restrictions; it's finding the **RIGHT** restrictions.