



1. Are you HEARING God’s Word?

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. — **James 1:19-20**

2. Are you RECEIVING God’s Word?

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. — **James 1:21**

3. Are you OBEYING God’s Word?

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 someone who looks at his face in a mirror²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. — **James 1:22-25**

Maximizing the effect of God’s Word (**James 1:25**):

A. READ God’s Word.

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom,...

B. MEDITATE on God’s Word.

...and continues in it...

C. MEMORIZE God’s Word.

...—not forgetting what they have heard,...

D. LIVE God’s Word.

... but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

DIGGING DEEPER

JAMES 1:19-27

- What does it mean to be “quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger” (verse 19)? At first glance, it would seem that this is talking about how we treat others. So, how can we live this out in our relationships with others? But on the other hand, this verse falls within the context of discussing the “message” (the Word of God). So, how does this command also relate to hearing God’s Word?
- Why do you think James specifically refers to “human” anger in verse 20? What is the difference between human anger and God’s anger? What are some of the things that can cause anger? How should we respond when we start to feel angry (there may be some clues in verse 21)?
- This passage says that failing to “do” the Word of God is like forgetting what we look like (in other words, acting duplicitous—like two different people). Why do you think James uses this particular analogy?
- Twice in this passage, James warns us not to “deceive ourselves” (verses 22 and 26). What does this mean and how is this even possible?
- How can we “fix our attention” on the Word of God? What do you find challenging about this? What can you do to cultivate this fixed attention on the Word of God? How does fixing our attention on God’s Word prevent us from “forgetting what we look like” or “deceiving ourselves?”
- What does the description of “true religion” in verses 26-27 reveal about the heart of God and how we are to “live out” His Word?