



WEDNESDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Living Proof: You Can Benefit from the Word of God

Passage: James 1:19-27

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: At least once a day—often more—we stand before a mirror to check how we look or see if something needs fixing. The mirror reveals what's really there. Tonight, let's look at something far greater than any bathroom mirror—something that can change how you see yourself, shape your character, and transform how others see you. The Word of God is a mirror the Holy Spirit uses to show us who we truly are—not as we think we are, not as others see us, but as God sees us. Here's the problem: many people don't truly read or understand the Bible. It's not a matter of access—most homes in America have a Bible. The issue is that it's not read, understood, or applied. In short, the Bible is respected but not received, honored but not obeyed. James wants us to see that God's Word *can* change us—if we let it. If our faith is real—if we want to be living proof—the Word must make a visible difference in our lives. So how do we benefit from the Word? James gives us three steps:

I. You Must Be Receptive to God's Word (Verses 19-21)

We must cultivate and prepare our hearts to gladly welcome the Word of God.

A. A Capacity to Listen

Don't just let Scripture bounce off your ears; listen for what God is saying. An attentive heart leans in.



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B. A Controlled Tongue

If the Word is going to benefit us, we must be quiet long enough to let it convict and instruct us.

C. A Calm Spirit

Angry hearts don't hear truth. If you come into God's Word defensive, bitter, or resentful, you will not hear.

D. A Clean Life

If you cling to sin, the Word of God will bounce off your heart. But when you confess and forsake sin, the wax is cleared and God's Word gets through.

II. You Must Be Submissive to God's Word (Verses 22-25)

A. Examination

To "look into" means to stoop down and gaze carefully, the way Peter looked into the empty tomb on resurrection morning. Too many Christians give God's Word only a passing glance. James says we must actively examine it.

B. Reflection

Don't just examine and walk away. Meditate. Memorize. Reflect.

Jesus Himself overcame Satan's temptations by quoting Scripture He had hidden in His heart.

C. Response

God's Word is not given for our information but for our transformation. The blessing is for the doer.

III. You Must Be Moved by God's Word (Verses 26-27)



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The Word of God must not just be received in your mind or believed in your heart—it must move into your actions.

A. Guard Your Tongue

Religion that doesn't control the tongue is worthless.

Real Christianity shows up in how we speak.

B. Give to Others

True faith is compassionate, not self-centered. Christianity is not just what you believe; it is how you love.

"The Bible was not given to increase our knowledge but to change our lives." —D. L. Moody

If your Bible study never makes you kinder, more generous, or more compassionate, you're missing its purpose.

C. Guard Your Life

True faith keeps itself "unspotted from the world." That means clean living. Staying separate. Refusing to let the world pollute your mind and heart.

Conclusion: This world doesn't need more people who carry Bibles—it needs people who live them. It needs believers who are living proof that God's Word still changes lives. What has the Word revealed in your life tonight? Maybe you need to calm your spirit and listen more closely. Maybe you need to confess a sin that's clogging your ears. Maybe you need to move from hearing to doing. Maybe you need to let the Word clean up your speech, deepen your compassion, or restore your personal holiness. Don't just look in the mirror and walk away. Respond tonight. Do the Word. And God promises—you will be blessed.



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