

# Listening and Doing

# Embracing God's Good Gifts

**James 1:19–27**

# Understanding vs Self-Deception

1:16 Don't be **deceived**, my dear brothers and sisters.

1:19 My dear brothers and sisters, **take note** of this

1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so **deceive** yourselves.

1:26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues **deceive** themselves.



## **James 1:16–18**

**1:16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.**

## **James 1:19–27**

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



**1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 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.**

**1:26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.**

**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.**



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# Misunderstanding God's Gifts

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# Embracing God's Gifts

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# Proverbs

- Me – “The way of fools seem right to them, but the wise listen to advice.” (12:15)
- You – “To answer before listening—that is folly and shame.” (18:13)
- Result – “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (15:1)
- “We have two ears and one mouth, that we may listen more and speak less.” (Zeno)



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# **The Law That Gives Freedom**

**Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matt. 12:29–32)**



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- **Is your reading of Scripture habitual and focused?**
- **From your reading, what is God challenging you to do?**
- **Are you making progress in doing it?**

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**God has sown His message of Jesus into our hearts, so that we can live a life of true goodness and genuine love for Him.**

- Make a habit of looking into the perfect mirror of God's law and humbly put that law into practice.**
- Be quick to listen but slow to use your tongue, and slow to lose your temper.**
- Take care of women and children in need.**