

The Chiasm in James 1:21-27

From hearing to doing. From self to others. The heart transformed by God's Word.

1

RECEIVE THE
WORD HUMBLY



James 1:21 (NKJV)

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

2

REFLECT ON THE
WORD HONESTLY



James 1:22-24 (NKJV)

But he does of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

3

REST IN ITS
FREEDOM



James 1:25 (NKJV)

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

4

RESPOND WITH
YOUR WORDS



James 1:26 (NKJV)

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

5

REACH SOMEONE
WITH YOUR LIFE



James 1:27 (NKJV)

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

THE BIBLE AS AN ACCESSORY vs. AUTHORITY

ACCESSORY



Picked up when convenient



Confirms what you believe



Read in highlights



Carried to church



Decorates your life



Makes you feel religious



Quotes for Instagram



Pulled out in crisis

AUTHORITY



Consulted before decisions



Corrects what you believe



Read in context



Lived on Monday



Directs your life



Makes you actually different



Commands for obedience



Present before crisis arrives