



Closing the Gap Between Belief and Behavior!
October 19, 2025 – The Book of James
Closing the Gap by acting on His Word!

***Your relationship with the Word:
is it reception or deception?***

James 1:21-26

²¹Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.

²⁴For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

²⁵But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Psalm 19:7-14

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

⁸the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

⁹the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹²Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. ¹³Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for **teaching**,
for reproof, for **correction**, and for **training** in righteousness,

¹⁷that the **man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work**.

John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Psalm 119:24

Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.

Psalm 119:32

I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!

Psalm 119:92

If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

Psalm 119:97

Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

Psalm 119:103

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

→ Do not be deceived as a hearer only!

(1:22-24)

1. You look your life through the Word.

2. You don't act, but walk away, forgetting how God spoke! (24)

→ (NON) ACTION: you set your life-list aside for later.

3. You are deceived!

1) "Oh, I already know that truth!" (22)

"To know and not do, is not to know at all!"

2) "This just doesn't speak to my life." (I have no needs!)

→ Be a receiver of the Word: a hearer who acts!

(1:25)

1. You look your life through the Word.

James 1:25

→ ACTION: Bring your life-list!

→ ACTION anticipate God to be working supernaturally through His Word!
Hebrews 4:12

2. You stay at it (persevere) to see how the Lord will lead your life.

James 1:25 and Psalm 19:7-14; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

→ ACTION how can I respond to what the Lord is saying? Write it out!

→ ACTION: always come hungry!

→ Two results of acting/doing on the Word:

1. Acting on the Word saves your soul! (1:21b)

John 8:31-32

2. Acting on the Word brings blessings in all you doing (1:25b)

Psalm 1

Application questions on the back →

--- Close the Gap by acting on His Word! ---

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SUNDAY after church...

Think through your morning and: 1) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you were able to give! 2) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you received! 3) List songs or lyrics that touched your heart.

MONDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTED** In point 1, se notice that the "hearer only" sets his life-list aside. He probably sees of hears from the Lord, but he steps away and forgets. Write out why it is easy to set out life-lists aside when we have our quiet times. Can it be we are not expecting the Lord to lead, or perhaps that the Word is not that relevant to our lives? **PRAY:** Pray over your observations and applications.

TUESDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** If we don't act on the Word as He speaks, James says we are deceived (pt.3). There are at least two we are deceived. Look at them on point three and write out how and why this is deception. How is this true in your life? **Pray:** Pray over your applications.

WEDNEDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** We need to bring our life-lists to the Word when we meet with the Lord or hear His Word. It is critical that we come with an anticipation of the Lord's speaking to us and our life. If we don't, this easily becomes unbelief. Write out why you do or at times don't, anticipate hearing the Lord in His Word. **Pray:** Pray over your applications.

THURSDAY and FRIDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** James says to persevere. We understand this as meditating and working the Word into our life situations (good and bad). This can be hard, spiritual work and is easier to skip. From our study, what are we losing when we skip this phase?

PRAY: Pray over your observations and applications.

SATURDAY

Prepare your heart for Sunday's gathering by being ready to fully engage in the worship.