

The Book Of James (Part 14) – Satan’s Great Deception on Idolatry

April 25, 2026

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://cornerfringe.com/media/gszzi28/part-14>

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document be printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliteration into the English alphabet. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

The Implanted Word: Escaping the Deception of Lawlessness

This message by **Pastor Daniel Joseph** of **Corner Fringe Ministries** examines the **Epistle of James** to highlight the critical necessity of **total repentance** and the removal of all moral corruption. He emphasizes that true faith requires being **doers of the Word**, warning that mere intellectual agreement or religious lip service leads to **self-deception**. Using historical examples like the **golden calf** and contemporary reports of **iconoclasm**, Daniel argues that the use of religious images constitutes **idolatry** and a rejection of divine commands. He maintains that the **apostolic message** is consistently aimed at destroying the works of the devil by calling believers to **holiness** and the **fear of God**. Ultimately, Daniel presents the **implanted Word** as the only source of power capable of transforming the mind and **saving the soul**. This message concludes that maintaining a relationship with God is impossible without **strict obedience** to His laws and the rejection of all worldly compromises.

[Daniel Joseph]

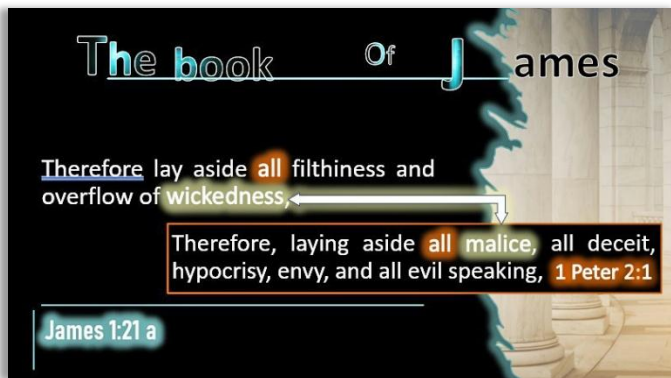
Well, Shabbat Shalom, everyone. We are going to continue on in our series of the Epistle of James to the 12 tribes. And in the last message, we left off at James 1:20, and we're going to pick it up. We have a lot to cover today, so we're going to jump right into verse 21.

And this is what James says. He's going to turn a corner, if you will. He says in James 1:21, **“Therefore lay aside”**—look at this, he says—**“all filthiness**, he doesn't say “some.” He doesn't even say “most.” He doesn't say, “Lay aside most of the filthiness that's in your life **and overflow of wickedness...**” (Emphasis added). What he says is “Get out every last trace of leaven.” This is a **“bedikat chametz (בְּדִיקַת חָמֶץ)”** moment where you search for that last trace of leaven. You leave nothing behind, and you don't look back. It's about time. You have to purify the temple of God. You need to have this moment of self-introspection.

And you look at what James is bringing to the table here; he's bringing a core principle to the gospel. The core principle is to repent. Matthew 3:2—**“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”** This is what John the Baptist preached; this is what Yeshua preached, and He commissioned His disciples—those who called Him Master, those who called Him Rabbi, and those who called Him “my Lord and my God.” He commissioned them to go out and preach that message: repent.

And here you have James bringing this to the table, and notice there's something so awesome; it's so powerful about the apostolic ministry. They didn't play around; they didn't play games. They come out of the gate, and they come after sin. James isn't going to tiptoe. He's not concerned about what men think. He's not concerned about, well, if I say the wrong thing, then nobody's going to come to church. He is coming and gunning after sin, and this is the beauty of what we see with these great men of God; they go after it; they don't mess around.

I want to pull the thread on this a little bit. And I want to take you to Peter's epistle, his first epistle, and I want to show you how in line and how consistent the narrative is among the apostles. So, Peter says this in 1 Peter 2:1, **"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking"**



(emphasis added), which is literally the exact same thing as James in James 1:21, where he says, **"Therefore, lay aside."** Peter says, **"Therefore, laying aside."** What? Some? No, all malice. And what's interesting is that when you go to the Greek, it's the exact same Greek term that James brings to the table. This is *kakia* (κακία). This is any and all sins. You lay aside all malice, or *kakia*, all wickedness, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and evil speaking.

This is what I love about the apostles. This is what I love about the New Testament. They're all saying the same thing. They're all going in the same direction. They're all gunning for sin. Their object is to destroy the work of the devil. And so, they're going to expose these things. And they're going to awaken those who are deceived.

I love what the Apostle Paul says to the Colossians. He throws his hat into the ring. He says in Colossians 3:5, **"Therefore put to death..."** In other words, Peter would say, "Hey, lay aside." James would say, "Lay aside, cast aside." Paul says the exact same thing in a different way. **"Put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication**—in Greek, that is the umbrella term for all sexual immorality. Everything you can imagine falls under this umbrella term—**uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness**; in other words, the love of the world, which Paul identifies appropriately, **which is idolatry."**

When your heart is aching and yearning and desiring and pursuing the things of the world, you're in love with the world. That's idolatry by nature. And the commission is, whether you're talking to James, whether you're talking to Peter, or whether you're talking to Paul, put these things to death.

Why? Well, as we continue, look at how Paul gives us a little motivation. He says in Colossians 3:6, **"Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience."** In other words, if you don't get sin out of the camp, you're not going to make it. You will not survive. You will be destroyed. You will know the most unimaginable pain and suffering conceivable. You will not escape it. That's motivation.

The way to get sin out of the camp is, you know, what it says in Proverbs 16:6, **"... by the fear of the LORD, one departs from evil."** That fear is derived from putting yourself in front of Yeshua at the judgment, and then you're going to get some clarity. Are you ready to face judgment today? Because

judgment is coming; no one can stop it. You will answer for the things that you are doing right now, and the wrath of God is going to come against the sons of disobedience.

Revelation gives a great cry. It says in Revelation 18:4, “And I heard another voice from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.’” This is the cry right now, today; this cry is to be heard. If you want to participate in the sins of Babylon, you will participate in her judgment. —Galatians 6:7—Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. It's coming.

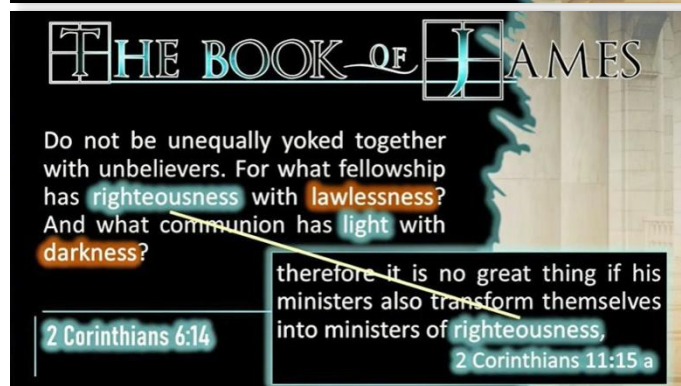
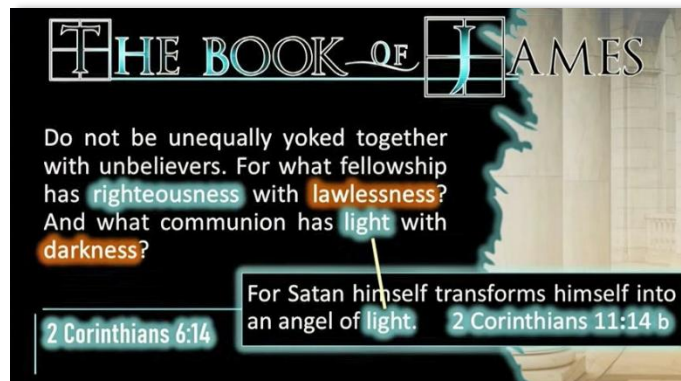
The Apostle Paul says this: 2 Corinthians 6:14—Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? This is such a Jewish way, asking rhetorical questions of which the answer is obvious. There is no relationship; there is no fellowship between righteousness and lawlessness. And what communion has light with darkness? (Emphasis added). They're incompatible.

But here's the troubling reality. The devil is going to try to convince you that they are not incompatible. The devil is going to try to convince you, “Oh, these can come into harmony.” He is absolutely demonic. He is going to attempt to redraw the parameters of what the Word really says. And he wants to make you feel that though you walk in darkness, you're in the light. And though you practice lawlessness, it's okay; you're really righteous.

In fact, as we continue and see what Paul says to the Corinthians, this is not a coincidence. He says in 2 Corinthians 11:14-15, “... For Satan, himself transforms himself into an angel of light.” Paul is intentionally grabbing the descriptors here. He's intentionally leaving a trail of breadcrumbs, and then he continues; this gets better. ¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness ...” (Emphasis added).

Paul is bringing something to the table that none of us actually want to believe, but it is. The enemy is coming, and he is coming to impersonate and bring ministers of righteousness that bring you into a place of lawlessness because Satan himself comes as an angel of light to bring you into the darkness.

Paul goes on and says this: 2 Corinthians 6:15-16—And what accord has Christ with Belial? This is a term for Satan, the Antichrist. It's very prevalent in Jewish apocalyptic literature. There is no accord. There's no relationship. Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? ...



Now I'm going to tell you, have you ever read the Bible cover to cover? What you will discover is a tragedy—the enemy has convinced God's people over and over again that there is a relationship. It's okay to have agreement, to bring idols into the house of God—to practice idolatry.

You want evidence? Go back to the golden calf incident. Moses went up into the mountain; Israel made a golden calf, and they said, “Oh, Israel, this is the God that led you out of Egypt.” And then what's the next thing that it says? Well, we're going to come back the next day and hold a feast to Yahweh. They didn't leave Yahweh. They operated in a new form of worship unto Him through this golden image.

Do you understand how diabolical that is and how twisted it is? The enemy convinced them there was agreement. It's okay that there's agreement. What is the problem? The problem is, Israel already heard the voice of God itself. Every man, woman, and child heard God Himself speak and say (Exodus 20:4-5), **“4 You shall not make for yourself a carved image ... 5 You shall not bow down to them, nor serve them.”** You're not to bring honor to these images. You're not to worship the LORD your God in that way. It's forbidden. This is literally the mouth of the LORD, and yet the enemy convinced them otherwise.



Just a tidbit of current events for you that really kind of falls into what we're talking about here. How many of you heard about this incident? Most of you probably can't read this, but the headline reads, on this particular coming out of the BBC, **“Outrage over Israeli soldiers' vandalism of Jesus statue in Lebanon.”**

Now, the backdrop here is that Israel has gone into southern Lebanon to deal with Hezbollah, and they came to Debel. This is a

little Christian village of the Roman Catholic persuasion. And as the IDF rolled in there, one of the IDF soldiers took this down, and look at the picture; they caught it just at the perfect frame, taking a sledgehammer to the face of this depiction of Jesus.

Now, I'm going to tell you right now, the world erupted in fire. This went absolutely viral. Now, I want to be clear: I'm going to compartmentalize the world from the Christian world. I really don't care what the world thinks. What astonished me was the Christian response. There are countless people posting videos, posting articles, and writing about this event who have a lot to say. And as a Christian, they were coming out, and they were calling this IDF soldier a terrorist.

Other commentators were coming out and saying, “Christians, look at this, Israel. Look at the IDF. Look at the Jewish people. Do you really want them as your friends? Do you really believe this is your greatest ally?” Pundits were coming out. Commentators were coming out and saying that they're out to destroy Christianity, painting this whole situation as the enemy of all Christianity. It was unbelievable.

And the pressure is so intense that Benjamin Netanyahu had to come out with an apology. Even the foreign minister of Israel, Gideon Sa'ar, came out and followed with an apology. And the Israeli government vowed to replace it. They're going to come in and replace this, and they did. Now, the community that's there didn't accept it. They wanted one; they were gifted one from Italy, and so they came in, and it's already been replaced.

The reason I am bringing this to the table is that there's such a profound lesson here, and it has everything to do with today's message. The thing that scares me in this generation right now is the interpretation of information, the interpretation of current events. How do we look at this? Is what he did an attack on Christianity? Now, clearly, most people would say this is a PR nightmare for Israel. They're already receiving a lot of heat; this didn't help. How are we supposed to look at this?

Here's what you need to get in the habit of: Stop processing information according to your own heart and your own mind and start going to the Word. Period. What does the Word say? —Deuteronomy 7:5—**But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.** The command of God, and I could show you passage after passage in Scripture where God commands, "When you come into the land, you take these things down; you destroy them." This is literally what is happening here. And keep in mind, you can't even make this up: Debel, Lebanon, is part of ancient Israel, which God gave to Israel.

So how are we supposed to interpret this information that even the Christian world itself, or much of it, is aghast? They're offended. In fact, they came out with a formal response: "LORD, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Oh, it sounds so Christian. It sounds so loving and so Christ-like, but let's just analyze the act. Remove the motivation; I don't know what his motivation was. Here's what I know. I know what the command of the Living God says, and I literally see this happening right here, where you take out the images, because here's the deal, and follow me on this. This is not Jesus, and this is not Christian.

The whole aspect of creating images is idolatry. The headlines shouldn't be reading that Christians are outraged all over the world. The headline should read, "Man, an IDF soldier did what the shepherds in Christianity wouldn't do." That's what the headline should read. We are so far away from scriptural truth that when we start seeing things, we're getting the devil's version and the devil's interpretation, and only the Word is going to set you free. Only the Word is going to give you clarity.

Yeshua hanging on a cross is an abhorrent and obscene image. It's an abomination, and it should make your skin crawl. I am thankful that the sledgehammer was taken to it; that's the heart of God. I'm going to tell you this is so offensive. Do you notice how Roman Catholicism wants to freeze-frame the moment of Christ's death? He is dead on a cross. My Jesus is alive; He rose the third day. And day after day, Satan wants to keep Him in that moment of his perceived victory over a dead Jesus. That is an abomination.

Now, how, pray tell, does Roman Catholicism justify this? Well, I'm going to take you to the Roman Catechism, and we read this: —*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, PG 573—[2131 Basing itself on the mystery of the incarnate Word, the seventh ecumenical council at Nicaea \(787 AD\)](#). Typically referred to as the second council of Nicaea. Now keep in mind, we're in the eighth century, AD, [justified against the iconoclasts the veneration of icons...](#) We have recorded history within Roman Catholicism itself: there were Christians who were called iconoclasts, which is just a Greek compound word for "icon" and "kláō," which means "image breaker."

These were Christians who were image breakers who were coming against the Catholic Church, saying, "We're taking on water here. There's idolatry and paganism. We're mixing the holy with the profane," and they're coming out against them. They have to have a council now. What do we do with this? And so, the council in Nicaea justified, against the iconoclasts, [the veneration of icons - of Christ but also of](#)

the Mother of God, the angels, and all the saints. By becoming incarnate, the Son of God introduced a new "economy" of images. You can't even make that up. So now, because of the coming, where the Word becomes flesh, now Jesus comes to save us. Well, now it just opens the door for everyone to make idols and images; this is what they're saying.

Well, where have I heard that before? Oh, yeah. I've heard, "Oh, because Jesus came, now the law is done away with." Oh, yeah, because Jesus came, we don't have to keep the Sabbath. This is the tongue of the serpent. This is the serpent governing the narrative. This is why you need the Word.

And so, becoming the incarnate of the Son of God introduced a new economy of images. [2132 The Christian veneration of images is not contrary to the first commandment which proscribes idols](#). Never mind the fact that it's the second commandment.

Here's the problem, and when you guys go out, I'm just going to warn you: you can go to the Jewish numbering system of the Ten Commandments. You can go to the Protestant numbering; they're the same. The commandment of the graven images is the second commandment. When you go out and you're out and about and you run across the 10 commandments, I want you to look at them, and if what you see, the first commandment, is "you shall have no other gods," and then it says, "you shall not take the LORD's name in vain" as the second commandment, you are looking at a Catholic-funded set of 10 commandments. There's no commandment against graven images. They just conveniently remove that little aspect. Now it just becomes, "You shall have no other gods before Me." And so, because they take that out, well, then they have to split the 10th commandment, because you still need 10 commandments. They have to split the 10th commandment into two separate commandments. So, this is problematic in itself.

"Indeed," listen to this: ["the honor rendered to an image passes to its prototype,"](#) and ["whoever venerates an image venerates the person portrayed in it."](#) So, the justification here is like, it's okay. Because when we pay homage to this image, it's the unseen part behind it that actually receives it. Oh yeah, Israel thought the same thing with the golden calf. This is idolatry. It's Satanism creeping into the church, Satan redefining the parameters of God's Holy Word. Absolutely demonic.

This isn't a game. When you can see the entire Christian world just erupting and being offended, their shepherds, their own shepherds, their own priests should have brought these things down. The whole thing should be purged. One of the grossest violations in all of Torah is this very thing right here. It's creating the images, creating idols.

Continuing in Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 6:16-17—[And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."](#)¹⁷ Therefore ["Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord...](#) (Emphasis added). That's the same cry in Revelation Chapter 18—come out of Babylon.

You know what? I know the LORD loves the Catholic people, and there's a cry to them right now. There are many Catholic believers in Jesus, and there are many good Catholics with good hearts. The cry to them is Revelation 18:4, ["Come out of her, my people ..."](#) Get out of Babylon; get out. —2 Corinthians 6:17-18—[Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."](#)¹⁸ ["I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."](#) (Emphasis added).

2 Corinthians 7:1—**Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all**, just like James and just like Peter, all **filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God** (emphasis added). Everywhere we look, this apostolic message is gunning after sin, after deception, and calling us into holiness, into pure holiness.

Going back to James 1:21—**Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness ...** (Emphasis added). I want you to understand this whole concept of where you're going to get the strength, where you're going to get the power to lay aside all evil, all sin, because you're not going to do this on your own. You're not going to do this according to your own power and your own strength. The only way it's going to happen is when you receive it with humility.

It's interesting that James is so precise in how he is presenting this, how careful he is in bringing this to the table, because everywhere we look, we know humility leads the charge every time. —2 Chronicles 7:14—**If My people who are called by My name will humble ...** Everything else that follows follows humility. And what true humility is is saying, “I surrender all.” “I will surrender all unto Thee, my blessed Savior,” having that heart.

James 1:21—**... and receive with meekness the implanted word...** (Emphasis added). Do you understand where all the power lies, the beauty, the way you are going to get conviction and strength, the way the fear of God is going to well up within you, the way you get clarity, and how all the delusions and lies that lie inside of you, which you have come to believe, are revealed the moment you receive the implanted Word?

The Word of God is living and powerful. It's a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart, meaning you may feel so strongly, and you may be so passionate about what it is you believe, but until you receive the implanted word, you do not know if you're deceived or if you're standing on truth. It's not how you feel; it's what God says, and we have to have this locked down. You know, Paul says in Romans 7:7, “**... For I would not have known covetousness unless the law, the Word, had said, “You shall not covet.”** We're blind without the eyes of the LORD.

Psalms 119:9—**How can a young man cleanse his way?** How do you do that? **By taking heed according to Your word** (emphasis added). Receiving the implanted word. James isn't making this up. This is the scriptural testimony. This is how we cleanse our way. This is our foolishness, which is going to be laid aside. Our filthiness will be laid aside. The Word of God will root it out. It is light, and it will shine in the darkness.

Psalms 119:10—**With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!** (Emphasis added). A man of God? There are two things here. With my whole heart, not some, not most of my heart, with every fragment, every cell of my heart, I'm going to seek Him, and the desire is, “Don't let me wander from Your commandments.” Yeshua articulated in Matthew 6:13, the Our Father prayer, “**... But deliver us from the evil one...**” I don't want to leave the path of righteousness. This is the heart of the righteous.

Psalms 119:11—**Your word I have hidden in my heart.** Why? **That I might not sin against You** (emphasis added). Which, again, we can't define sin apart from the Word. We have to eat, sleep, and breathe the Word in this generation. The deception's too great.

Going back to James. —James 1:21—... and receive with meekness the implanted word... Now you're about to find out how serious this is, **which is able to save your souls** (emphasis added). So, if you just thought your time in the Word was just another day, or it's not that significant, not that big a deal, the next time you open your Bible, know this: you've opened a book of salvation. And the words embedded within give life.

This is James doing it again. It's getting tiresome. He's bringing life and death to the table. Principle after principle after principle. —Psalm 119:50— **This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life** (emphasis added). This is the implanted Word. This is the promise of the New Covenant that the Spirit of God would write His Torah; He would write His law on my heart. Why? That I might not sin against Him.

Moshe says in Deuteronomy 30:15-16, **"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, ¹⁶in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live..."** (Emphasis added). Truly, when you go to Proverbs 3:18—**She is a tree of life**—this book is a tree of life specifically **to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her** (emphasis added). This is life. Every time we open our Bible, we feed on life. It gives us life. It destroys doubt. Right? —Romans 10:17—**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** If you're weak in your faith, you're weak in your time with the LORD. You're weak in the Word. We need to feed on Him.—Psalm 34:8—**Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good...**

Jumping ahead, the psalmist goes on and says in Proverbs 4:4—**"He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live** (emphasis added). This isn't just an Old Testament narrative. You go into the New Testament, into the ministry of Yeshua, where the young rich man comes to Him and asks (Matthew 19:16), **"Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"** Yeshua says (Matthew 19:17), **"If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."** He said the exact same thing that we see woven throughout the tapestry of Scripture. It's all consistent. Life comes through receiving the Word. That much we can be certain of.

And when you receive the word, there's a radical transformation. The whole concept of what Paul says in Romans 12:2 is, **"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."** How I renew my mind is I get the Word of the LORD into my mind. That's the only way to renew it.

Going back to James 1:21-22—... and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. And James is going to add a warning. ²² **But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.** There is a real threat of every single one of us falling into a deception, where intellectually we can say, "I love the Word." Intellectually, we can say, "Hey, this is the truth." But when it comes time for the application, all of a sudden, there's a disconnect.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, **"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?"** See, we like to fancy ourselves as being good, faithful Christians. And we want to go to bed at night telling ourselves, "Me and Jesus, we're good." But here's the deal. If we're not doing it, if we're reading it and we're studying it—this intellectual pursuit—but there's no fruit, and we're not applying it, you are not good. You're in trouble.

Yeshua says this in Luke 8:21, **“But He answered and said to them, ‘My mother and My brothers are these, my family, who hear the word of God and do it.’”** (Emphasis added). He doesn't just say, Who hears: He says, “Those who hear and do.” And as the narrative continues into Luke 11:27, where a woman comes to Him and says, **“Blessed is the womb that bore You...”** And Yeshua's response in Luke 11:28: **But He said, “More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”** (Emphasis added). He is pressing a point.

When you study Yeshua's ministry, over and over again you read Matthew 7:24-25—**“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ And when all hell breaks loose and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall; they're not moved.”** Why? **For it was founded on the rock.** They're doers of the Word.

Yeshua says this in John 8:31-32—**Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** (Emphasis added). If you abide in His Word, that's when something spiritually profound takes place. You will know the truth, and that will set you free. It sets you free from the lies the enemy has convinced you of. It sets you free of deception. It sets you free from bondage. It sets you free from sin. We need to be set free.

Now, I want to take you to the Book of Jeremiah because I want to bring this discussion to life through a real biblical example, which is going to lend some real credence to James' concern. The thing that he has brought to the table isn't some newfound warning, but this is something that the enemy has gotten the better of God's people with.

And so, I want to take you to Jeremiah Chapter 42, and the backdrop here is the LORD has brought a pagan king, Nebuchadnezzar, in to bring judgment on His people, and it's brutal. The sword has come. They're taking people into captivity. We have the destruction of the temple; we just have things swirling about. And it's interesting, and it's nothing new, but you have certain people who are analyzing the situation differently than others. Some people have a solution in their minds of how to escape this judgment and not bring their necks under the yoke of Babylon, which is what the LORD commanded.

We pick it up in Jeremiah 42:1-3—**Now all the captains of the forces, Johanan the son of Kareah, Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiiah, and all the people, from the least to the greatest, came near.** These are Jews. This is God's people. These are the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ² **And said to Jeremiah the prophet, “Please, let our petition be acceptable to you, and pray for us to the LORD your God, for all this remnant (since we are left but a few of many, as you can see), ³ that the LORD your God may show us the way in which we should walk and the thing we should do.”** (Emphasis added).

I'm going to tell you right now; I don't need to read the rest of the story. I could definitely tell you something is coming. And what that something is is that the LORD will answer the prayer. We're told in 1 John 5:14-15 that **if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.** Their petition is righteous. Their petition is beautiful. They want to know the way they need to walk. Please, LORD, show me the way. This was the heart of even the psalmist in Psalm 119:18—**Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.** I mean, we find this narrative throughout. This is the heart of righteous people.

Jeremiah 42:4—Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, “I have heard. Indeed, **I will pray to the LORD your God according to your words, and it shall be, that whatever the LORD answers you, I will declare it to you. I will keep nothing back from you.**” (Emphasis added). That is a shepherd. The only thing that I'm going to teach and that I'm going to preach is what the Word of the LORD says. I don't care what you think. I don't care if it offends you. This is what I love about Jeremiah. This is what I loved about the true prophets of God. They were not people-pleasers. All they cared about was pleasing the LORD. Such faithful shepherds. Jeremiah is a faithful shepherd.

Jeremiah 42:5—So they said to Jeremiah, “Let the LORD be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not do according to everything which the LORD your God sends us by you. So, they declared to Jeremiah, “You are a faithful shepherd. Whatever the LORD's delivering, we're taking it. We're going to eat it.”

Then listen to this; this is amazing. —Jeremiah 42:6—**“Whether it is pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God to whom we send you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God.”** (Emphasis added). Absolutely profound. Talk about having this beautiful heart of saying, “Listen. I don't care if I like what you have to say. I just want the truth.” How many of you said this? How many in your hearts are just like, “I'm tired of receiving. I just want the truth. I really do; that's what I want.”

Well, this is where we're at in our story. Whether they agree or disagree, whether it's hard or easy, we just want what God says. —Jeremiah 42:7—**And it happened after ten days that the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah.** Okay, so Jeremiah brings back the word of the LORD to the people, and this is where it gets interesting.

Jump to Jeremiah 42:19—**“The LORD has said concerning you, O remnant of Judah, 'Do not go to Egypt!' Know certainly that I have admonished you this day** (emphasis added). See, some of these people said, “We have this figured out. We're going to go back to Egypt,” and this isn't their first rodeo. Israel, in their history, had also done this to escape judgment, but this is not the command of the LORD.

Listen to what Jeremiah continues to say: —Jeremiah 42:20-21—**“For you were hypocrites in your hearts when you sent me to the LORD your God, saying, 'Pray for us to the LORD our God, and according to all that the LORD your God says, so declare to us and we will do it.' That's what they said. ²¹ “And I have this day declared it to you, but you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God, or anything which He has sent you by me.** (Emphasis added).

Jeremiah came and rebuked this crowd. Rebuked the Jewish people because they were not keeping the Ten Commandments. It literally starts labeling the Ten Commandments. It starts going through the list. Yet you come to the temple, you raise your hands, you sing the songs, and you offer sacrifice, and you call on the name of Yahweh. These are the people who are asking Jeremiah, “Whatever you say, all we care about is the Word of the LORD. We just want the truth.”

And we go to Jeremiah 42:22—**“Now therefore, know certainly that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go to dwell.”** They're going to face the wrath of the LORD. Why? Because they did not heed the word. Oh, but they gave great lip service. Everything they said was dead on: what a righteous man should say—until it required change. They didn't like it.

And so, we continue: —Jeremiah 43:2— **that Azariah the son of Hoshaiiah, Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men spoke.** Again, I don't need to know anything else. I already see the problem. Before honor is humility. And what comes before the fall? Pride. So, we know this is not good. And all the proud men are **saying to Jeremiah, "You speak falsely! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, 'Do not go to Egypt to dwell there.'** (Emphasis added).

Redrawing the parameters now. Oh, we promise, Jeremiah, just bring us the Word of the LORD. We want only the truth, nothing but the truth. Bring it to us; well, he brought it. Well, we don't like that, so now we're going to blame you. The interpretation is not "You got the wrong interpretation." You're not hearing from the LORD, so we'll go about our way.

This, by definition, is people who have itching ears and heap up for themselves teachers and turn their ears away from the truth. This is terrifying because this happens from generation to generation. Christians deluding themselves, "Me and God are good." We're good. We're good. But when a faithful shepherd comes forth and preaches the Word in truth, and it stings, they don't like it; they're gone. Oh yeah, I'm a Christian; I love Jesus; I'm going to do it... Whoa. Once you start hitting a chord, once you start going through the commandments and say, "Yeah, you need to do this," they say, "Oh, you're a legalist."

Yeshua says this in Matthew 15:7-9, "**Hypocrites!**" The same thing Jeremiah said. **Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:** ⁸ **'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips.'** That's exactly what we just read happened. **'But their heart is far from Me.** ⁹ **And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'**" (Emphasis added). Vanity, because they don't have the implanted Word. Their hearts are far from Him because His Word is not in their hearts. They're not doers of the Word. They're hearers only.

Ezekiel, the LORD says this to the prophet Ezekiel, who is a faithful shepherd in regard to his own people. —Ezekiel 33:31-32— **So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them;** for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. ³² **Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice.** In other words, man, you're masterful in bringing the Word of the LORD to us. **And can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them** (emphasis added).

This is an epidemic. And I can tell you that the Christian church is being plagued by this reality. And I can tell you that because I will know them by their fruit. When you see the fruit of lawlessness, when you see the fruit of complacency, when you see spiritual lethargy, when you see compromise against God's Word, you have a problem.

And so, with that said, we're going to close.

[Closing prayer]

Abba Father, we just give You praise and glory for Your Holy Word. May we not be called hypocrites on the day of judgment, who honored You with our lips, but our hearts were far from You. We read the Word, but we don't do it. We study it, but we don't apply it.

LORD, I pray for a radical Holy Spirit conviction of fire on people who are not doing the things that please You, who speak foolishness, who walk in error, who walk in unforgiveness and unbelief. LORD, I

look at what is happening right now in this world, and it is clear that we're in the last minute of the last hour, and none of us are assured of tomorrow. May no one leave this place without getting right with You, without confessing their sins, without picking up the cross and saying, "I'm going to follow You wherever You go." You go to the valley of the shadow of death; LORD, I'm coming.

I pray for that kind of resolve, LORD, that You give us eyes to see and ears to hear, that we may receive the implanted Word that is able to save our souls. LORD, we are so blessed in being able to pick up the Bible anytime we want, and yet we choose to do other things. And there's a day coming where regret is going to be met, that we did not spend more time with You, that we didn't make the decision to surrender all.

LORD Yeshua, You are worthy that we should lay everything aside, everything as Your disciples did, dropping the nets and following You. And so, LORD, I pray as we get into this last song that You move among Your people. And that they become a people who are wise and discerning, who acknowledge their guilt, who acknowledge their shortcomings, and who say, "I will not tolerate sin in the temple of God. I will not tolerate idols and covetousness and all forms of idolatry." But we have a Hanukkah moment. We have a rededication, a revival. And I pray this in Yeshua's mighty name. Amen.

FROM HEARING TO DOING: ESCAPING THE DECEPTION OF IDOLATRY

Based on James 1:21-22, this outlines the transition from purging “spiritual leaven” to internalizing the “Implanted Word,” warning against religious hypocrisy where one honors God with lips but fails to apply His commands.

PREPARATION—PURIFYING THE TEMPLE

Perform a “Bedikat Chametz” of the Soul



Conduct a thorough search to remove every last trace of sin and wickedness.

Lay Aside “Kakia” (All Malice)



Completely cast away deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and evil speaking to find clarity.

Reject the “New Economy of Images”



Idolatry and graven images are incompatible with righteousness, regardless of modern justifications.

ACTION—THE IMPLANTED WORD

Receive the Word with Meekness



Approach Scripture with total humility to allow the Word to save your soul.

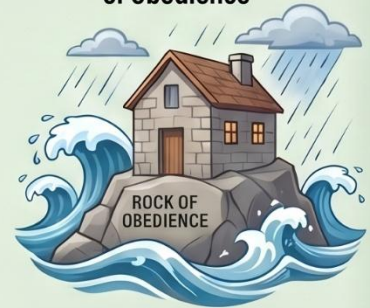
Hearers vs. Doers



HEARERS
(Intellectual Belief)
Intellectual belief without active obedience is a self-deception that bears no fruit.



DOERS
(Active Obedience)
Stability during spiritual “floods” comes only from practicing the commands you hear.



APOSTOLIC CONSISTENCY

JAMES

Key Instruction:
Lay aside all filthiness
Scripture Reference:
James 1:21

PETER

Key Instruction:
Lay aside all malice and deceit
Scripture Reference:
1 Peter 2:1

PAUL

Key Instruction:
Put to death your members on earth
Scripture Reference:
Colossians 3:5