

“Are You Doing It?”
James 1: 19 - 27

¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Listening and Doing

¹⁹My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. ²¹Therefore, 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.

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

²⁶If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion 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.

(James 1: 18-27 NIV)

James 1:19-27

Questions for personal or small group study and reflection:

1. What commands are given to us in v. 19? Why do you think James emphasizes these? How will these develop spiritual maturity? How can we practically listen more and talk less?
 2. What can anger never accomplish in our lives? Why is this the case? What hinders us from being able to really hear?
 3. How do we receive the word? How is it different from merely hearing the word? What attitude is necessary in order for us to accept the word? What can accepting God's message do and how does it apply to those who are already Christians?
 4. Why are we deceived when we just hear the word but do not put it into practice? Do we struggle with this in our lives, and how can we overcome it?
 5. What are true expressions of worship? What does it mean to “do” the word? How does this look like in our lives? Take time to really listen and hear the Lord. What can you do this week to put God's word (that gives freedom) into practice?
-