



# Hearing and Doing

## James 1:19-27

Adult Church School  
August 24, 2020

# James 1:19-27 (NIV)

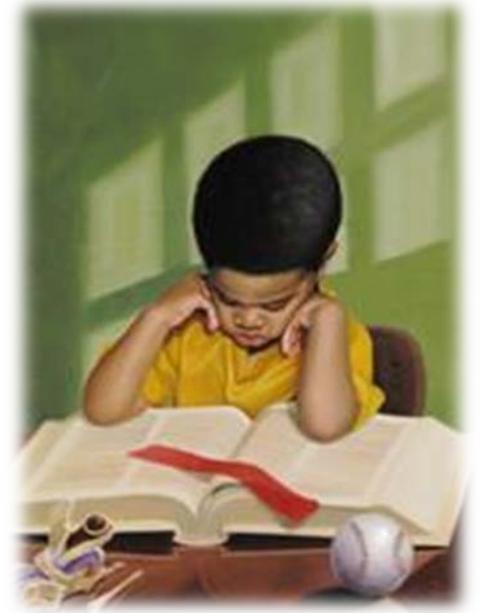
- <sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,
- <sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.
- <sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.
- <sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
- <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror
- <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.
- <sup>25</sup> 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.
- <sup>26</sup> Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.
- <sup>27</sup> 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.

# James 1:19-27 (CEV)

- <sup>19</sup> My dear friends, you should be quick to listen and slow to speak or to get angry.
- <sup>20</sup> If you are angry, you cannot do any of the good things that God wants done.
- <sup>21</sup> You must stop doing anything immoral or evil. Instead be humble and accept the message that is planted in you to save you.
- <sup>22</sup> Obey God's message! Don't fool yourselves by just listening to it.
- <sup>23</sup> If you hear the message and don't obey it, you are like people who stare at themselves in a mirror
- <sup>24</sup> and forget what they look like as soon as they leave.
- <sup>25</sup> But you must never stop looking at the perfect law that sets you free. God will bless you in everything you do, if you listen and obey, and don't just hear and forget.
- <sup>26</sup> If you think you are being religious, but can't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and everything you do is useless.
- <sup>27</sup> Religion that pleases God the Father must be pure and spotless. You must help needy orphans and widows and not let this world make you evil.

# CHAT

- What are the major points in the text that speak to you? Why?



# Author and Theme of Writings

- **James** was written between 42 and 60 A.D.
- **James** puts feet to the Christian walk, urging the child of God to focus on living out what he or she believes.
- **James** deals with temptation, anger, immorality, the tongue, prejudice, partiality, hypocritical teachers, jealousy, lust, humility, trusting God, conviction of sin, self-justification, and confession of sin.
- **James** is addressed to believing Jews dispersed throughout the Roman Empire.

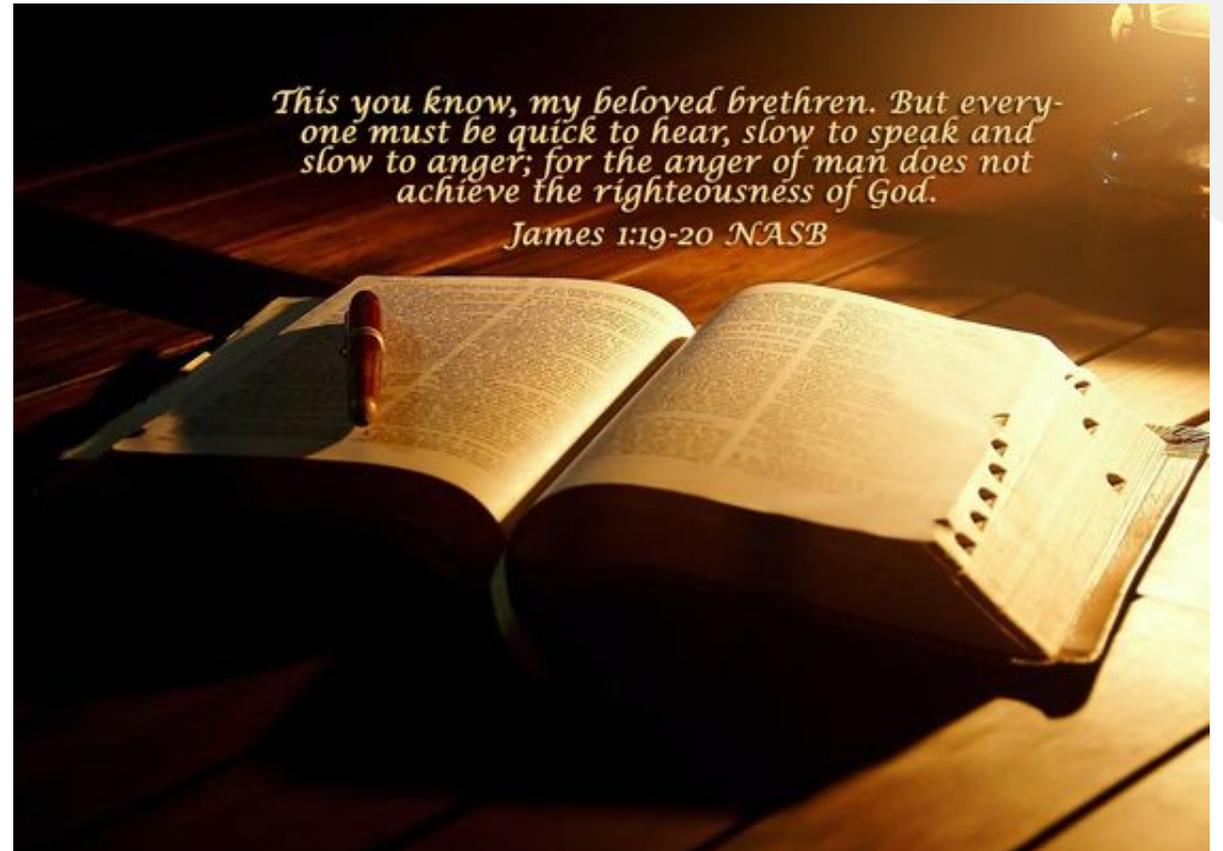
# Authentication of Faith

## Step 1: Quick to Listen

- Persons exhibit wisdom in their lives by paying attention to their speech. James encourages his readers to **be ready to listen.**
- This is a continuous command. We are to keep at it.

### CHAT:

Why are we such poor listeners today?



# Challenges to Listening Today

- **Busyness** – *substitutes frenzy for conversation and wrecks our relationships. It fills our calendars and empties our lives of the ability to listen to anything that turns us away from our little gods.*
- **Visual Media** – *feeds our inability to concentrate. A culture so dependent on visual changes to keep its attention has difficulty concentrating on anything, especially the unadorned Word.*
- This inability to listen *has huge implications regarding the hearing of God's Word. **Bible reading** is in jeopardy for not only do people have trouble concentrating, but films and videos are the primary way we learn.*
- Preaching *also becomes a daunting proposition.*

# Ways to Help Listen

1. We must work at *truly listening to others*. **Listening** requires an intense interest in the other person. “Listening is loving the neighbor as oneself; his concerns and problems are sufficiently important to be heard.
2. We must limit our exposure to the *visual media*.
3. We must read **God’s Word**. It means “listening” as we read.
4. We must ***slow down*** and **take time** to *listen*, perhaps praying Samuel’s words, “Speak, for your servant is listening” (Samuel 3:10).
5. We must prepare for ***worship*** and the ***hearing of God’s Word***.

# Authentication of Faith

- **Step 2: Slow to speak.** *Think before you speak. We so naturally pronounce opinions and verdicts on every situation and person.*
- **Slow to speak** is an ongoing command from the Holy Spirit.
- **Step 3: Angry speech** *is a sure sign that a person lacks wisdom.*
- **Anger** is dangerous even when expressed in speech.
- **Angry speech** is part of the temptation to seek vengeance and was of deep concern to James.

James' Rationale for being “quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry”.

- **Anger** produces an ugly, unrighteous life.
- **Jesus says,** “*But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.*”

“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent”...(v.21)

**AN UNWILLINGNES TO LISTEN, A SINFUL TONGUE, AND UNRIGHTEOUS ANGER ARE MORAL EVILS.**

CHAT: Comments or Questions

# Accept the Word (v.21)

- If we are **slow to hear God's Word**, quick to speak and quick to anger, moral filth is not only our lot but our destiny.
- If we wish to receive and benefit from the Word, **we must get rid** of the sins the Word has revealed to us.
- We may need to do a **spiritual house-cleaning**. *If we have been unhearing, our tongues out of control, building up anger, the Word has not been flourishing as it was meant to do.*
- *If we have accepted the word planted in us, there is only one thing to do – **listen!** Read it, and **listen**. Be still, and **listen**. Worship and **listen**.*

# Doing the Word (v. 22-25)

- **Hearing the Word** must be followed by obedience.
- **Accepting God's Word** logically means doing it.

## Wrong Approach (Folly)

The man who listens to the Word but does not do what it says  
Is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and forgets what he looks like  
“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves”

## Right Approach (Wisdom)

The man looks intently into God's Word

He sees more deeply, the mirror image of his soul. His **imperfect spiritual** features are forever impressed upon him. He becomes **poor in spirit**, for he knows what he is. He knows that in his natural self, apart from **God**, there dwells no good thing. God's Word becomes the mirror that helps him see himself which helps him understand the atoning forgiveness from God and GRACE. He chose to live in obedience.

**The man keeps looking and doing**

# Biblical Knowledge Demands Action

**When we have been given spiritual instruction from the mirror of God's Word, and do not act upon it, we imperil our spiritual health.**

- *For our souls' health we must apply what we hear. Example: when our conscience is moved by a sermon, or in daily devotional reading, we should commit ourselves to do something. When we do this, more truth will be given.*

# Acceptable Religion

- James warns his readers about the danger of religious delusion. (Read the right books, attend the right worship service, have the right friends, etc.) – deceiving ourselves.

## Acceptable Religion

1. Must **control the tongue**. An out of control tongue suggest bogus religious devotion. A true test of a man's religion is his/her ability to control his/her tongue. Avoid, slander, gossip, critical spirit.
2. Care for the **unfortunate** (orphans and widows). James uses the orphans and widows as representative of all who are in need. Religious observances, no matter how perfectly observed are empty if there is no concern for the needy.
3. An **Unstained** by the world or live by the standards of the world.

## Next Week's Lesson

# Living Faith

James 2:14-26