

**Series:** Faith in Action  
**Today:** "The Christian and the Bible" Pt. 2, # 6  
James 1:22-27  
2-7-16 Sun PM

Let me remind you that the emphasis on vv. 19-27 is hearing, doing, and showing the Word of God so as not to be deceived [v. 22].

This passage teaches the believer that we have three responsibilities toward God's Word. **Last week-** hearing the Word, **tonight-** doing the Word and showing the Word.

Too many believe that just hearing a sermon or lesson makes them grow when in fact, it is the doing and not the hearing that brings the blessing. It is not enough to mark your Bible, but your Bible must mark you!

**TT:** Last week James compared the Word of God to "seed," now he compares it to a "mirror," and "perfect Law of liberty."

**I. Hear the Word (vs. 19-21).**

1. Be swift to hear
2. Be slow to speak
3. Slow to wrath
4. Prepare our hearts by:
  1. *By confessing our sins.*
  2. *By meditating on God's Word.*
  3. *Have an attitude of humility.*

**II. Do the Word [vs. 22-25].**

What is the main purpose of owning a mirror? To show our defects and the changes we need to make. The Word of God Reveals Our Sin and changes we need to make in our defective behavior, beliefs, and attitudes.

James gives several mistakes People make as they look into God's mirror.

1. They do not study themselves as they look into the Word [v. 23].

Beholding means observing and understanding. Many read the Bible as a religious exercise with no intent to change. They read it carelessly.

2. They forget what they see [v. 24].

Isaiah responded to the word by saying, "Woe is me! for I am undone!" [Isaiah. 6:5].

Peter said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" [Luke 5:8]. Job said, "I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" [Job 42:6].

3. They think hearing is the same as doing [vs. 22, 24-25].

They fail to obey what the Word tells them. We substitute reading and talking for doing.

We must gaze into the Word **intently** [v. 25], with no quick glances. We must spend time and when we see the truth, change. We must do the Word and continue in the Word.

What is the perfect law of liberty? As we obey the Word God sets us free.

**Ps. 119:15**, “And I will walk in liberty: for I seek Thy precepts.”

**John 8: 31-32, 34**, Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; (32) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

(34) Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

*So we must not only hear the Word but do the Word as not to be deceived.*

**I. Hear the Word.**

**II. Do the Word.**

**III. Show the Word (vs. 26-27).**

The Bible has this theme over and over- there are those who are saved and those who are lost. Then there are those who are lost but think they are saved (works).

The word “religion” means “the outward practice, the service of a external religious rituals, routines, and ceremonies.” The word is used only 5 times in the N.T. It could be translated as “worshiping.”

Here it means more than someone involved in a religious activity, but works from the heart [True Christianity]. Pure religion means practicing God’s Word and sharing it with others. Pure religion is Biblical Christianity.

James gave us three tests of salvation in chapter 1- proper response to trials, proper response to temptation, and response to the Word. There is a desire for obedience and a changed life evidenced by works and our life- It is a belief that behaves.

After we have heard the Word and the Word has revealed our sin, cleanses us, and changes us, we should show the Word by our speech, our service, and our separation from the world.

1. We Show the Word by Our Speech [v. 26].

The many references to the tongue in this epistle let’s us know that this assembly had a serious problem with the tongue. The tongue is mentioned in five passages in this book.

A person who is busy doing religious things and trust in them will soon reveal their faithlessness with their mouth. The test of the tongue!

Two truths here about the tongue- 1. If the heart is right the speech will be right. 2. A controlled tongue indicates the heart is right.

## 2. We Show the Word by Our Service [v. 27a].

We should see others and their needs. We should have a genuine concern for the needs of others.

Pure and undefiled are synonyms. **Pure** emphasizes cleanliness while **undefiled** speaks of being free from contamination. **Visit** is more than dropping by for a visit, but caring for others. It is from the same word for overseer which means to exercise oversight. It means to see, inspect and relieve.

We are to meet as best we can the needs of orphans and widows [most destitute], and any others in need. Words are no substitute for deeds [James 2:14-18]. Neither is paying others to minister for us no substitute for deeds.

## 3. We Show the Word by Our separation [v. 27b].

The world is fallen, godless world system of ungodly morals, values, and philosophies which is headed by Satan himself who is the god of this world.

We as children of God have been bought and brought out of the world. We are **in** the world physically but not **of** the world spiritually. We have been sent back **into** the world to win others to Christ without being like the world.

It is only as we maintain our separation from the world that we can have a testimony to witness and serve others. The world wants to “spot” the Christian and begin the defiling process. How?

1. Friendship with the world. [James 4:4].
2. Love of the world [1 John 2:15-17].
3. Conformed to the world [Rom. 12:1-2].
4. Condemned with the world [1 Cor. 11:32].

**Take home truth** [19-27]. Godly religion is obedience to God’s Word which is reflected by our speech, our service, and our separation- Belief Behaves!