

The Believer's Responsiveness to the Word of God

James 1:22-27

God's objective for the believer in Christ is to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29) and to grow in the grace and knowledge of Him (2 Pet 3:14-18). He will ultimately complete this at the rapture; however, He desires that we would be doers of His word now so that we would be approved at the judgment seat of Christ in the future, and in a blessed state in our walk as believers today (Jam. 1:12, 25).

James – The Mark of a Mature Believer

Chapter 1: His Will is Directed by God's Word

I. A Proper Evaluation of Trials (1:1-12)

A. Trials from Without (1:2-12)

1. He Depends on Him (1:5)
2. He does not Doubt His Character (1:6)

B. Temptations from Within (1:13-18)

1. He is not Drawn Away by his own Desires (1:14)
2. He Reflects on His Worthiness (1:17-18)


II. A Positive Response to the Word of God (1:19-27)

A. Receptiveness to His Word (1:19-21)

1. An Eagerness to Comprehend (1:19-20)
2. A Willingness to Lay Aside Distractions (1:21a)
3. A Tender Heart of Meekness (1:21b)


B. Responsiveness to His Word (1:22-27)

The Believer's Responsiveness to His Word (1:22-27)

 **James 1:22** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.


1. Our Responsiveness in _____ the Word of God


a. Be Doers of God's Word (1:22a)

 James 1:22a "But be doers of the word..."

 **Be:** (G1096) ginomai: to become [present middle imperative].


b. Be Not _____ (1:22b-25)

 James 1:22b ... and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

 **Deceived:** "to reckon wrong," hence means "to reason falsely" or "to deceive by false reasoning."

Two Areas we Deceive Ourselves

1) With our _____ – Reception without Personal Application (1:23, 24)

 James 1:23-24 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; (24) for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

 **Observes:** the action of the mind in apprehending certain facts about a thing; to consider closely

Careful Observation – Departing – Immediately Forgetting

2) With our _____ – Reception & Communication without Personal Application (1:26)

📖 James 1:26-If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless

c. Be _____ and _____ to His Word (1:25)

📖 James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Looking & Continuing

🕯 **Look:** to bend beside, that is, lean over (so as to peer within): - look (into), stoop down.
See Luke 24:12; 1 Peter 1:12

What is the Perfect Law of Liberty?

It is a description of the Word of God and its ability to direct in our walk.

Three simple facts are brought about in describing the Word of God as such –

It is a _____
A fixed principle that can be relied upon because it is backed by the character of God

It is _____
It is flawless, complete, and sufficient - and when the believer looks into it intently, it can bring about maturity for the walk.

🕯 **Perfect:** “to bring to the intended end/goal, complete, finish, make perfect. The basic idea is of bringing something or someone to the place where its/his designer intended.”

It Provides _____
It brings freedom

📖 2Co 3:17-18 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (18) But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

It is only the “abiders” which bear fruit; because they recognize that everything they have and need is sustained by remaining near the source of their life (John 15:5).

2. Our Responsiveness in _____ the Word of God (1:27)

📖 James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.