

JAMES 1:19-27

THE WORD THAT GOES TO WORK

James 1:1-18- Background

- “Consider it pure joy my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” (1:2-3)
- James’ warning against being double minded
- Trials vs. Temptations: Trial happens outside a person, temptation is what happens inside--how they respond to their circumstances
- “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all He created.” (1:18)

James 1:19-21

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. 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.”

James 1:19-21

- Outline:
 - Proper preparation for receiving the word—getting rid of moral filth
 - Required attitude for receiving the word—humility/meekness
 - Thing to be received- the word planted in them
 - The expected results—being saved

“Most of us would have to confess that holy anger belongs in a state of sanctification to which we have not yet attained.” J.A. Motyer

James 1:19-21- Attentive Spirit

“The blunt fact is that our life with God is not something segregated to be restricted to “quiet times,” and insulated from our life with people. If we do not have an attentive ear in the ordinary circumstances of life, we do not become different people when we shut the door and open the Bible.” J.A. Motyer

Humility/Meekness: the special ingredient the soil must be given for true growth to happen. This is humility that is open to what the word teaches and commands. This is humility that accepts that we truly do not know what is best for ourselves, but God does.

James 1:22-25

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 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.”

Listening & Doing

- We have received the blessing of new birth (1:18)- So, how do we enjoy this blessing? By living in obedience
- When we look into the mirror of God's word we see not only our outward appearance but we see our true selves—our motives, desires, and our inward condition.
- “The Word of the Lord is a revealer of secrets: it shows a man his life, his thoughts, his heart, his inmost self.” Charles Spurgeon

James 1:22-25- Freedom

- Freedom is only found when we are in the environment we were designed to flourish in—that environment is obedience to God's word
- Look intently into the law of God—take time to examine the state of our soul, the grace of God, the extent of our duty, and the height of our promised glory

Freedom- Psalm 1:1-3

“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditate on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.”

James 1:26-27

“Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight reign on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 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.”

3 Areas of Obedience

1. A controlled tongue
2. A caring ministry to the needy
3. Personal holiness

So, why these three areas?

James 1:18

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

Three truths about our Father	His spontaneous care for the helpless	His word of truth	His purpose of holiness
Three marks of the child of God	A caring ministry to the needy	A controlled tongue	A holy life
Three topics developed	A caring ministry (2:1-26)	A controlled tongue (3:1-12)	A holy life (3:13-5:6)

“Like Father, like child”

J.A. Motyer

Conclusion

- Have an attentive spirit not an angry spirit—come to God’s word with ears ready to listen to the wisdom He will give us
- But- let’s not just be listeners but doers of God’s word. Since we have received new birth—lets live in obedience
- Looking into God’s word is like looking into a mirror—it shows you, you—but then we should walk away changed
- Living in obedience is living in freedom
- 3 acts of obedience that mirror God’s acts toward us: caring for the helpless, good listeners, and set apart