

15. In verses 26 and 27 what different ways does James say that we should be not just hearers of the word but also doers? In what ways can we practically do each of these?

16. From the verses we have read in this study are good works on their own sufficient, or indeed of any worth?

Pray

Pray for our times together in Bible study groups, as we hear teaching week by week in church, and as we read the Bible on our own, that we would not just hear, but remember, and act on what we hear?

Pray for the areas of church life, and what we do individually, where we can show concern and compassion for others.

Pray that as a church we would be concerned to be quick to hear, and slow to anger.

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James

Week 2 : Hearers & Doers



Read James 1.19-27

1. In these verses what references can you find to words, speaking, hearing etc?

New Life (v19-21)

In chapter 1 verse 18 we saw that a disciple of Christ, by the Father's will, is 'brought forth by the word of truth'. James is concerned with seeing this new life in action.

2. What problems can arise when we are slow to hear and quick to speak?

3. Are you more likely to be quick to hear or quick to speak?

4. Why is it important in a church, and even in a study group, to be able to listen to what others say?

5. What is the danger of anger, even if it begins as what we might call 'righteous anger'?

6. What does James say in verse 21 about how souls are saved?

9. How likely is it that what you hear from the word actually affects how you act?

Doers, not just hearers (v22-25)

In verse 22 we seem to have switched from listening to other people to listening to God's word.

6. Complete the chart below (courtesy of Alec Motyer) to see how James' illustration works:

The man with the mirror	A believer with the word/law
(v23 & v24) looks intently into it	(v25)
(v24) goes away	(v25)
(v24) forgets	(v25)

10. What benefit does James say arises from 'doing'? (v25) In what ways do you think we experience this?

11. How can we make sure we are not just hearers, but also doers?

Pure religion (v26-27)

12. Does the idea of 'religion' or saying that someone is 'religious' tend to convey a positive or negative idea?

7. In verse 25 James speaks of the perfect law of liberty, referring to God's word (or commands). Do people normally think of law and liberty as going together? Why is God's law about freedom not restriction?

James is writing about pure, undefiled religion.

13. In this pure religion whose opinion should we be concerned with?

8. When you have been reading the Bible, in a home group, or listening to a sermon, how likely are you to remember what you have "heard" in the days following? Are there ways that help in remembering what you heard?

14. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus warned about not doing your works for show, and yet also letting your works shine out (Mtt 6.1-4 and Mtt 5.16). Why do both matter, and why is Jesus not contradicting himself?