

# ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

## *Doers of the Word, James 1:19-27*

### Receive the Word

**James 1:19-21 (KJV) 19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: 20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. 21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.**

- James is writing to Jewish Christians to teach them *how* receive the Word of God
- Our attitude toward the Word is important
- Our attitude will determine if we truly receive the Word
- When we receive the Word, we submit to it
- We must be:
  - *Swift to hear* – Having a hunger a desire to hear the Word of God preached or taught
  - *Slow to speak* – A willingness to hear to the Word of God without insisting upon your own ideas
  - *Slow to wrath* – Hear the Word of God without hostility toward the truth or the preacher
- Instead we must:
- Put away *all* filthiness - it's a picture of taking off dirty clothes and laying them aside
  - Get rid of all accumulated sin in your life
  - Just as wax in the ears can make one deaf, God is saying get rid of anything that that will make you *deaf* to the Word of God
- Put away *all* superfluity and naughtiness - any overflow of evil in our lives
- Receive with meekness the engrafted Word – receive the Word with meekness
  - You receive the Word with a gentle, humble willing and attentive attitude
  - You gotten rid of the proud, “I have all the answers spirit”
  - Engrafted means be *born within*
  - When you humbly listen and hear the Word of God, it is planted into your heart and life
  - The Word of God is born in our hearts and our soul is saved

### Be Doers of the Word

**22-25 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**

- How are we to respond to the Word we've received?

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- We are to be *doers* of the Word and not hearers only
- Hearing *and* knowing the Word is not enough; we must be doers of the Word
- Doers of the Word are applying the Word of God to their lives
- Without *application*, there is no real *spiritual transformation*
- When you are only a hearer or reader of the word of God, you're basically letting it go in one ear and out the other
- If we're "hearing" the Word without *doing* the Word, we are deceiving ourselves
  - Self-deception is the worst kind of deception
- It's one thing for the devil to fool you it's quite another for you to fool yourself
- When you deceive yourself there's no one to blame, but yourself
- A doer of the word is a *performer* of the word
- You hear the word and conduct an examination of how you are to use the word you just received to your life
- If we only listen to the Word without doing it, it's like we're looking in a mirror and seeing ourselves
  - They know exactly what adjustments or changes that need to be made
  - But instead of making the changes mirror clearly and accurately revealed
  - The person walks away from the mirror and forgets what he saw
  - The person forgets their true appearance and condition
  - Forgets the changes that needed to be made
  - Goes away from the mirror looking and doing what he was doing before; totally disregarding the image he saw
- When we come to church and hear the message; it reveals, uncovers, and exposes, the natural "us"
- The mirror of the Word shows us what we really look like spiritually
- The Word shows the imperfections, the sins, the attitudes, the weights, the weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement
- Instead of making the needed changes, we leave the service as if there are no changes to be made
- The mirror of God's Word is a *convicting mirror*, urging you to change so your life can improve and reflect the image of Christ
- We should be a living reflection of Jesus Christ
- Instead we leave the church forgetting how we really look, what really needs to be done, and why it needs to be done
- We leave service and talk ourselves out of the need for repentance because we've forgotten what our lives really look like
  - **It would be silly to leave dirt on your face or your hair in a mess after seeing yourself in a mirror.**
  - **It is just as silly to look into God's Word and make no changes in your life.**
- We must look *intently* into God's perfect law of liberty, His Word

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- To benefit from the Word of God requires looking into the word with the desire to make the changes the word reveals to me
- You look to the Word as the final authority because the word of God is perfect, without error, and complete
- When we think of laws, we think of restrictions
- When you apply the word of God to your life, it **frees you from** the bondage of sin and **free you to** be righteousness of God
- Anyone who applies the word of God to their lives continually and doesn't forget what they hear will be blessed
- In the Word of God is liberty or freedom from sin **John 8:31-32 (KJV) 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.**
- Your life is blessed as a product of consistent application and obedience to the Word of God
- Living by the Word will bless your life and bless the lives of those around you

### **What Doers of the Word, Do**

**26-27 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. 27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**

- Doers of the Word live changed lives
- This text gives us three examples of doers of the Word
- *Doers of the Word*
  1. *Can bridle their tongues* - control their tongue
    - What do we sound like? Can anyone listen to our conversation? Would God be pleased with what He hears?
    - God is not pleased when we try to dominate a conversation, gossip, lie, use foul language, talk about and run down other people
    - Doers of the word control their tongue **Ephesians 4:31 (KJV) <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:**
  2. *Visit the fatherless and the widows* – they serve those in need
    - Doers of the Word serve that are less fortunate
    - They give of their own resources without expecting anything in return
    - This pandemic has afforded us countless opportunities to serve
    - Doers of the Word invest in the lives of others
  3. *Keep themselves unspotted from the world* – they don't let the world corrupt their lives

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- This does not mean Christians retreat from the world; we are in the world, but not of the world
- Doers of the Word separate themselves and they don't let the world influence them
- Doers of the Word instead leave a godly influence in the world