

"True Faith and the Word of God"

Part 1

James 1:19-27

Introduction: Today as we come back to our study in the Book of James we enter into a new section. James made a transition in 1:13 and now he will make another transition in 1:19.

In James 1:2-12 the focus was upon the trials of life. In James 1:13-18 the focus was on the source of temptation. Now in James 1:19-27 the focus will be upon the Word of God. Now in 1:2-12 James explained how the true believer will endure through the trials of life. In 1:13-18 James explained how the true believer will respond when the temptations of this world come. Now as we come to 1:19-27 James will explain how the True believer is to respond to the Word of God.

The Bible tells us over and over that those who are walking in fellowship with the Lord have a deep love and desire for God's Word.

Psalm 1:1-2

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalm 119:16, 17

¹⁶ I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

¹⁷ Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word.

Psalm 119:27-28

²⁷ Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.

²⁸ My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.

Psalm 119:34-36

³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

³⁵ *Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.*

³⁶ *Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.*

These are just a few verses but we can see that those who were close to the Lord delighted in His Word.

To the world the Bible is just another Book but to those of us who know the Lord the Bible is life.

James also knew the value of God's Word in the life of the believer and this is what we shall see today.

I. The Need for God's Word in the Believer's Life (1:19-21)

Notice James 1:19

There is much in this verse for us to consider. There are 3 commands in this verse for the believer.

- 1. Be swift to hear.**
- 2. Be slow to speak.**
- 3. Be slow to wrath.**

I want us to consider each of these in the context in which they are presented.

Now the first thing we need to understand is that each of these commands is hung on the first word of this verse. Notice the first word again, it is "wherefore". This word "wherefore" points to 3 truths which James has already pointed to.

They are:

- 1. We will go through trials.**
- 2. We will face temptation.**
- 3. We have been saved to be set apart just as the "firstfruits".**

Now listen, based on these 3 points we need to first of all be quick to hear. Now that which we are to be quick to hear is God's Word. We know this because of what James says in verse 22.

Notice James 1:22

James tells us to not just be hears of the Word but also doers. This tells us that what James is commanding us to hear is the Word of God. So let us consider this in the light of each of the 3 Truths which James has pointed to.

1. We need to be quick to hear because we will face the trials of life and the tests of our faith.

We have talked about this before but I need to remind you that trials are inevitable. They will come and if you are not in one now you will be sometime soon.

Job 5:6-7

⁶ *Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground;*

⁷ *Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.*

So how does the command to be quick to hear connect with the trials of life?

It is the Word of God which will comfort, strengthen and keep us in the midst of the trials of life. There are times in the midst of the storms of life when it can become so dark that we cannot see beyond the moment we are in.

Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵ *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

Let me step you into the midst of a storm in the Apostle Paul's life. He was on a ship as a prisoner being taken to Rome when they encountered a storm of great magnitude.

Acts 27:17-25

¹⁷ *Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven.*

¹⁸ *And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship;*

¹⁹ *And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.*

²⁰ **And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.**

²¹ But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

²² And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

²³ For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

²⁴ Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

²⁵ Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

I want you to notice that in the midst of the darkness and when there seemed to be no hope it was the WORD of God that brought hope and comfort and encouragement. Now God does not speak in an audible voice today as He did then because we now have the complete Bible. Today He speaks to us through His Word.

Let me show you another time when the faith of God's people was tested.

Daniel 3:12-20

¹² There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

¹⁵ Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

¹⁷ *If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.*

¹⁸ *But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*

¹⁹ *Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.*

²⁰ *And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

This is a real life illustration of the suffering we can face for our faith in Jesus Christ. Our fiery furnaces may not be the same but I can assure you that when you stand for your faith you will feel the heat.

Now let me show you what you need to know when the heat is turned up.

Isaiah 43:1-3a

But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

² *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

³ *For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:*

James knew the need for God's Word in order to stand the trials of life and the tests of our faith. This is why he commands his readers to be quick to hear.

2. We need to be quick to hear because we will face temptation.

Another reason why James commands us to be quick to hear is because of the bait that will be placed before us on different occasions as we pass through this sin filled world.

It is God's Word that we need when we face the temptations of this life. It is the Word that will keep us from falling.

Psalms 119:11

¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Let me show you how it works.

Matthew 4:3-10

³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

⁴ But he answered and said, **It is written**, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for **it is written**, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

⁸ Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for **it is written**, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

¹¹ Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

3. We need to be quick to hear because the Word will make us more like God.

Notice James 1:18

God saved us to be like Him and the more we hear and apply the Word the more like Him we become.

2 Peter 1:3-4

³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Here is a truth that many believers do not know, we already have the power to live godly lives. It is a matter of learning the Word so that we can apply that very Truth.

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Our minds are transformed when it is filled with God's Word.

Conclusion:

If you give your time to learn God's Word it is something that no one can take from you. It will benefit you far more than anything this world has to offer.

It will benefit you in:

1. The storms.
2. The temptations.
3. The spiritual growth.