

"True Faith and the Word of God"

Part 5

James 1:19-27

Introduction: Today we come back to our study in the book of James and as we do we come to our 4th study in James 1:19-27.

Now just for a quick refresher let me remind you that these verses are all focused upon the Word of God. James' focus on the Word began in James 1:18 when he was writing about how God cannot be blamed for our temptation because through the Word of God He saved us to be like Him.

Notice James 1:18

This is the transition verse and the transition from "The Believer and Temptation" to "The Believer and the Word of God".

I. The Proper Reception of the Word

Notice James 1:19

Now in these verses James writes to show how believers are to receive the Word .

1. Swift to hear.
2. Slow to teach.
3. Slow to anger.

The anger here is resentment when you and I hear the Word and we are convicted and then we internally begin to resent the Word and even the man who is teaching the Word.

Notice James 1:20

In verse 20 James tells us why we are not to be angry when convicted because that will not produce the righteousness of God. This is a reference to verse 18 where we are told that we were saved to be like God.

The point is that when we suppress the Word of God then the Spirit of God is hindered and grieved and this hinders the growth of the believer.

Notice James 1:21

Here James tells his readers that when they hear the Word and they are convicted they are to put off sin. He goes on to tell us that when the Word is properly received that it actually becomes a part of our nature.

At the end of this verse James says something that many people skip right over. He tells us that the Word of God is able to save our souls.

There are three tenses to our salvation:

1. We have been saved from the penalty of sin.
2. We are being saved from the power of sin.
3. We will be saved from all sin when our salvation is complete.

Now James here is speaking of the present tense of our salvation. Here is what I want you to grasp: the more we receive the Word of God the stronger we become to stand against sin.

Hebrews 4:12

¹²For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The more we are receptive to the Word the better we shall stand against the attacks of the enemy. But the opposite of this is also true. When you suppress the Word and you get away from the Word then you will become spiritual weak and be defenseless against the attacks of the enemy and the lusts of the flesh.

Let me just say that drifting away from the will and the Word of God is a very slippery slope.

Notice Jonah 1: 1-12

II. The Response to the Word of God

Notice James 1:22a

Let us look at the first part of this verse to start with. James exhorts his readers to not just receive the Word but they were to be DOERS of the Word. It is interesting that James did not tell them TO PRACTICE the Word, nor did he tell them to just DO the Word. But he exhorted them to be DOERS of the Word.

Let me help you to understand what James is saying here.

I do woodworking on occasions but I am not WOODWORKER. I do some wood carving on occasion but I am not a WOOD CARVER. You may done some block work around your house but you are probably not a BLOCK LAYER. You may instruct people once in a while but you are not a TEACHER.

I am not a wood worker, nor a wood carver, nor a block layer anymore. I am a teacher of the Word of God and that means that teaching is what I do and it is who I am. It is in me and it is what my calling is all about.

That is the very idea that James has in mind here when he uses the Word DOER. He is saying that we are to receive the Word with the proper spirit and then we are to allow the Word of God to control our lives to the point that it is who we are. The Word is to be RECEIVED and then it is to be PRACTICED to the point that it just becomes a part of us in that it controls us at all times.

Notice James 1:22b

Here James warns his readers about self deception. Now when I read this I must ask what does the self deception refer to?

When the Holy Spirit inspired James I find it very interesting that he was not specific about what the self deception refers to and therefore it can be applied in many different ways.

1. It can refer to the believer who hears the Truth of God's Word but he or she refuses to apply it to their lives.

If that is you there are 2 ways in which you are deceived:

- a. **Maybe there is sin in your life and you have been convicted by the Spirit but you refuse to put the sin off. Your flesh enjoys the sin and you have been DECEIVED into thinking that you can master this small sinful practice in your life.**

You will not master the sin and if it is permitted to exist within your life then it will rule over you and it will take you lower than you ever wanted to go.

Genesis 4:5-8

⁵ But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

⁶ And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

⁷ If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

⁸ And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

God had warned Cain of the power of sin and Cain refused to listen. Sin then led him to the place where he killed his own brother.

- b. **The second way you may be deceived is that you might think that you can get away with your sin.**

Numbers 32:23

²³ But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: **and be sure your sin will find you out.**

Mark it down; you will not get away with sin if you are TRULY saved.

Hebrews 12:5-11

⁵ And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

⁶ For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

⁷ If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

⁸ But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

⁹ Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

¹⁰ For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

¹¹ Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

You will not get away with your sin for you will experience the chastening hand of God on your life. Let me show you what David wrote about the chastening hand of God.

Psalm 32:1-4

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

² *Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.*

³ *When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.*

⁴ *For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer.*

- c. **This could also refer to the unsaved person who thinks they are saved but they are only RELIGIOUS.**

I believe this is exactly what James had in mind. I believe he is warning the person who is religious. This is exactly what a religious person does, they hear the Word but it is not practiced in their lives.

You see James knew the very same thing that John had known.

1 John 2:3-5

³ *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

⁴ *He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

⁵ *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

Luke 6:44-48

⁴⁴ *For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.*

⁴⁵ *A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.*

⁴⁶ *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

⁴⁷ *Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:*

⁴⁸ *He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.*

⁴⁹ *But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.*

Let me show you the 2 illustrations which James gives.

1. The Unsaved

Notice James 1:23-24

This would be a picture of the unsaved person. They sit under the teaching of God's Word then they leave the service and they do nothing with what they have heard. The Word of God never changes their life because they are not saved.

2. The Saved

Notice James 1:25

Here is a picture of the saved man.

- a. He listens very intently.
- b. He then determines that he will live what he hears.
- c. He is a man who is truly blessed.

Conclusion:

Which one of these illustrations describes you?

Are you sure you are saved? There are many people who are under the cloud of self deception.