

One Step to Freedom
Chapter 4: Obedience to God's Word

Lesson 2

BE A DOER OF GOD'S WORD

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)

In the previous lesson we learned biblical principles on how to view and respond to trials and temptations in James 1:1-20. In this lesson, the theme is to be a doer of God's Word. We must also obey what the Bible says in order to overcome trials and temptations.

Read James 1:21-25: Doers—Not Hearers Only

1. What are we to lay aside and receive with meekness? (verse 21)
2. What is the implanted word and what will it do to our souls? (verse 21)
3. When you hear the Word of God, but you don't obey it, what kind of person are you? (vv. 22, 24)

Galatians 6:7-8 reads, "Don't be deceived. Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. If you sow to your flesh (selfish desires), you are going to reap corruption." Whatever you sow into your mind is going to come out of your life. If you plant the filthiness of the world, the language, the jokes, etc., that's what's going to come out. But if you plant the Word of God, you will reap the Spirit of God.

God wants us to empty ourselves of worldly influences and attitudes by receiving His Word with a humble attitude, and then doing it.

Read James 1:26-27: God's Religion

Note: The word "religious" or "religion" here refers to outward actions—not just what you say you believe. Your actions speak louder than your words!

4. Compare James 1:26 with Matthew 7:21. Explain what God is teaching us.

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Jesus is both Savior and Lord. He saved us from our sins, and once we confess that, He must be Lord of our lives. When you call Jesus Lord of your life, this means He rules you. You are no longer the boss of your own life. You must obey His Word and live to please Him. You no longer do what you want or live to please yourself. Being a believer in Christ takes more than just saying you are. You must obey God's Word and do His will.

5. Why is it important to “bridle your tongue” or control what you say? (verse 26).

Having self-control over what you say is a great temptation! We are all tempted to gossip, put others down, brag, manipulate, exaggerate, complain, flatter, and lie. Before you speak, use the acronym **THINK**: Ask yourself, “Is what I want to say...

TTrue? Helpful? Inspiring? Necessary? Kind?”

Do you remember the last argument you had with somebody? How did it start? Was your way better than theirs? As we reflect back on arguments, they usually are insignificant, but we forfeit our witness in Christ by walking in the flesh (giving in to our own desires) rather than walking in the Spirit. We are not a doer of God's Word when we don't bridle our tongues and our witness will be useless.

“Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent; with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent.” (Proverbs 17:28 NLT)

6. What example does James give of “doing” God's Word and how can we apply this to our own life? (verse 27)

In the first century, orphans and widows had very little means of economic support. Unless a family member was willing to care for them, they were reduced to begging, selling themselves as slaves, or starving. By caring for these people, the church put God's Word into practice. When we give with no thought of receiving, we show what it means to truly serve others.

If we do not obey God's Word, we deceive ourselves and our actions are useless. We are only fooling ourselves. Our profession of faith must be evident by our actions. If we say we are Christians, then we will obey God's Word and do what it says. This brings glory to God and shows the world what “true” Christians are really like.

God tells us through the book of James that we are to hear His Word and then do it. Obeying God is the mark of a true believer.