

James 1:16-27 (New Living Translation)

¹⁶ So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. ¹⁸ He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

Listening and Doing

¹⁹ Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ²⁰ Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. ²¹ So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

²² But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. ²³ For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. ²⁴ You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. ²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

²⁶ If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. ²⁷ Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

Reread verses 16-18 from last week. Focus for now on verses 18-25.

What does the section say about God's Word?

What are the three different ways does James show the “word” to us? Why do you think he did this?
What does each mean?

1. _____ -

2. _____ -

3. _____ -

Contrast the one that hears the word in verses 23-24 with the one who looks into the perfect law that sets you free.

Now, go back and look at verses 19&20. How do these fit into this passage. How are they not just random?

What does the message of verses 19 & 20 have to do with the church today?

What is the implication of being a hearer and doer of the word to your daily life? How well do you need to know the word in order to make this a daily reality in your life?