

Personal Study

**JAMES PART 3
HEARER / DOER**

"TRUE BELIEF CAUSES CHRISTIANS TO LIVE OUT THEIR FAITH ACCORDING TO THE WORD. WE DON'T JUST PASSIVELY HEAR THE WORD AND RECEIVE IT, RATHER ACTION SHOULD ALWAYS FOLLOW GENUINE HEART CHANGE".

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@FamilyLifeofPennsValley

This week's text: James 1: 19-27

Introduction:

It's been said before that the Christian life is kind of like riding a bike: You need **two pedals** to effectively and continually move forward. Just like riding a bike, if one of the pedals were to break or fall off, it is quite difficult, or even impossible to make progress.

If we were to give a name to the two "pedals" of the Christian life, they could be described as "**Hear**" and "**Do**". In order to continue growing in our faith, progress in Christ likeness, and effectively shape the world around us with the Gospel, we must be people who both "Hear" and "Do" the Word of God.

Let's Examine:

Let's take a minute to examine our experience / fruit as a follower of Jesus thus far:

Some of us are mostly "Hearers":

For some of us, we are naturally bent to "**Hear**". What this could look like is:

1. You attend a lot of Bible studies
2. You listen to a lot of sermons
3. You listen to a lot of Christian podcasts or radio
4. You read a lot of Theology
5. You read a lot of your favorite Christian authors

Is this you? If so, you're likely a natural "learner". You enjoy good content that stirs your affections for Jesus and His Word. Is this a bad thing? Of course not!

However, here is a test: **How has your "hearing" translated into "doing"?** In other words, the more we know should always translate into the more we do (or "live").

Some of us are mostly "doers":

For others of us, the flip side is a place of examination and reflection as well. If you're not inclined to "hear", you're likely inclined to be a "**doer**". What this could look like is:

1. You serve....a lot. If there is a team, you're probably on it.
2. You're really involved: you meet practical needs any chance that you get. Both in the church and in the community.

Is this you? If so, this can be a good thing as well. However, here is the test for you: **Do you gain a sense of "righteousness" or "right standing" with God, because of your involvement?**

James 1:22-24 reminds is of this: “But be **doers** of the word, and **not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like”.

What is the bottom line? **The fruit of knowing and following Jesus looks like both “Hearing” and “Doing” the Word and Will of Jesus.** Notice what James writes here: If we “hear” a lot, but it does not translate into a lifestyle that “does” a lot (and vice versa), we are **deceived**. This is some very strong language in the New Testament. James is describing a person here that believes that they are in Christ, but their hearts have been deceived. In other words, **it is easy to fool our hearts into thinking that we are in right standing with Jesus based on how much we “know” (Hear), or “do”.**

The good news:

If you feel like this could be you, there is good news, friend. Jesus’ grace is bigger than your deceived heart. Jesus’ grace is bigger than the pride of thinking we are in right standing with Him based on our knowledge or actions. If we are honest, this can be all of us during some seasons of life.

By God’s grace, He has saved us and called us to be a people that both hear and do His word.

Here are some practical steps forward:

1. Read and reflect on James 1:19-27. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the areas in which you need grace.
2. Pray. Ask for grace, forgiveness of sin, the grace to repent, and wisdom for the days ahead.
3. Examine: Has my “hearing” translated into “doing”?
 - Am I continually repenting of sin?
 - Do I see the fruit of the Spirit overflowing in my life?
 - Am I more like Jesus today than I was yesterday?
 - Do I find myself in His Word?
 - Am I continually sharing the gospel with those who do not know Christ?
4. Action: This week enjoy both soaking in the Word and Presence of Jesus as well as actively pursuing Him in your daily life. Aim to put these items of examination into action. By Gods grace, this is how we impact our World with the Gospel of Jesus.

Application:

This week, read James 1:19-27. Each day, highlight areas in the text that the Holy Spirit speaks to you. When you feel the Lord speak to you, take a moment to write it down. Pay attention to the deposits of wisdom that the Lord wishes to pour out on you as you read His Living Word.

