Hearing and Doing

Ken Chapman · James 1:18–25

INTRODUCTION

- It is one of those good and perfect gifts that God has given to us.
- This morning I'd like for us to try to make a modern day application of this book, of these words, to ourselves.
- When James, by inspiration, pinned these words, he was writing them to Christians.

1 Be Swift to Hear the Word of Truth

James 1:19; James 1:20

- My beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.
- James is not trying to get us to listen to our friends and family. James is admonishing us to listen to the word of truth.
- When it comes to God, we certainly should do a lot more listening than we do talking.
- For the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.
- Hearing the word of truth is what's going to produce righteousness.

2 Receive With Meekness

James 1:21

- So lay aside that filthiness and overflow of wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word which is able to save your soul.
- Not just hearing the audible noises, but receiving that message.
- Not just hearing it, but saying, Yes, I understand that. I see how it applies in my life.
- These truly are living and active words that can pierce the heart. They're powerful.

3 The Word Must Be Implanted

James 1:21

- It has to be implanted within us in order to be of any benefit.
- Every step of this progression to its finality must be accomplished for the word of truth to benefit us at all.
- It must not just lay upon the surface, it finds itself and it finds its root into the soil of our hearts. It is implanted. It becomes a part of us.
- Because that word of God is inside me guiding me. Directing me and at times shaming me.

4 Be Doers of the Word, Not Hearers Only

James 1:22; James 1:23–24

- You need to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

- It’s a prodding to get you to do what it says you must do once you leave the church building. It must change us.
- You can’t be a doer of the word without listening and without receiving and without implanting it.
- He is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror, for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what manner of man he was.
- A mirror doesn’t fix. It just shows you what needs to be fixed. The fixing is up to you.

5 Continue in It, Not a Forgetful Hearer

James 1:25

- But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it. And is not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work. This one will be blessed in what he does.
- He says you must continue in it. This is a life-changing obedience.
- The road to hell is paved with good intentions.
- You’re taking notes of action. You’re saying, yes, I need to do that.

THE CHALLENGE

We better figure out something that’s going to remind us to put into action on a daily basis what we hear the Word of God telling us to do.

MY NOTES