

LIFE GROUP notes

03 March



Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: James – week 3



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member that it is more blessed to obey and do God's Word than to just listen to it?
2. How should we receive God's Word according to v.19? (... **my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.**).
3. How should we receive God's Word according to v.21? (... **Receive with meekness (humility) the implanted word, (rooted in your heart...).**
4. How can deceive ourselves according to v.22? (**But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.**).



Let's go deeper

5. What happens to the person who only looks at himself in the mirror (God's Word) according to v.24? (**He looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.**).
6. What happens to the person who obeys and is a doer of God's Word in v.25b? (... **A doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.**).
7. What does v.26 tell us? (**If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.**).
8. What is pure religion according to v.27? (**Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.**).



Let's apply this

9. **James 1:22 and 26 ESV**; But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

Have you deceived yourself by:

Not receiving God's Word? Or not practicing God's Word?
Or maybe not sharing God's Word?

Remember v.25; But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

SUMMARY:

James: Week 3 – Dangers of self-deception

Read: James 1:19 – 27

James gives us three responsibilities towards God's Word:

v.19 – 21; Receive God's Word

James called God's Word "the implanted word" (v.21). Reminding us of our Lord's parable of the sower (see Matt. 13:1–9, 18–23), he compares God's Word to seed and the human heart to soil. The Word of God cannot work in our lives unless we receive it in the right way.

How should we receive God's Word?

v.19; Let every person be **quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger...**

How can we prepare our hearts for God's Word?

v.21; When we receive the Word **with meekness**, we accept it, we do not argue with it, and honour it as the Word of God. We do not twist it to conform to our thinking. If we do not receive the implanted Word, then we are deceiving ourselves.

v.22 – 25; Practice the Word

In the previous verses, James compared the Word to seed, but in these verses, he compares it to a mirror. There are **three ministries of God's Word as a mirror**:

v.23 – 25; Examination: The purpose of a mirror, is to see yourself and make yourself look as clean and neat as possible. As we look into the mirror of God's Word, we see ourselves as we really are.

James mentions several **mistakes people make** as they look into God's mirror. We only look at ourselves (v.23); we forget what we see (v.24), and we fail to obey God's Word (v.25). Why did James call the Word of God; "the perfect law of liberty?" Because when we obey it, God sets us free.

Restoration: The mirror of the Word helps to cleanse and restore us.

Transformation: After the Lord restores us, He wants to change us so that we grow. As we meditate on the Word, the Spirit renews the mind and reveals the glory of God. It is a process, the work of the Spirit of God through the mirror of God's Word.

v.26 – 27; Share the Word of God

Pure religion means practicing God's Word and sharing it with others, through;
Speech – the tongue reveals the heart, if the heart is pure the speech will be pure.
Service – after we see ourselves in the mirror, we must see others and their needs.
Separation from the world – we are sent into the world to win unbelievers to Christ