

James

(5) Submitting to the Word

James 1:22-25

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does. NIV

Quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger...1:19-21

How does James admonish ‘my dear brothers’? 1:19, 21, 22

Take note! Quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to become angry! All focused on the Word!

Being focused on the Word, what does *quick to listen, slow to speak* indicate? see 3:1

Shows an eagerness to hear the Word proclaimed, and reluctance to hastily proclaim it!

But what in the world does the *slow to anger* address? 1:19 ISam.8:4-7; see also 4:1-2

A root anger with God when His Word confronts/rebukes us. Leaks out all kinds of ways.

What does James indicate are the roots of this anger with God’s Word? 1:21a; Col.3:8-10

It’s personal ‘moral filth’ and evil, that is so prevalent. Unconfessed sin is ‘ear wax’!

Instead of clinging to the moral filth and evil, what should we be doing? 1:21b; see 4:6

Humbly accepting (receiving) the Word planted in you! God resists the proud but...

Quick to listen, but not to hear?...1:22-27

What is the ultimate requirement when listening to the Word? 1:22; Jn.14:15

Listen, humbly receive the Truth, but do what it says! Obey. If you love Me, you will obey!

What’s the object lesson describing one who listens but doesn’t hear the Word? 1:23-24

Like looking in a mirror (seeing yourself in reality) and immediately forgetting!

What’s the point here? What’s the application? 1:24 see IIPet.3:11

Coming to the Word, seeing the description of who you are, immediately dismissing it.

What is the response of a truly Godly heart? 1:25

Looks intently (bend down, examine), continues to do this. Blessed in what he does.

What is one very personal, very focused, test for true ‘spirituality’? 1:26; Mt.12:34-37

Having a tight rein (restraint) on the tongue. Truly puts the heart on display!

What’s the next very personal test for true ‘spirituality’? 1:27a

To look after (carefully) orphans/widows in their distress. Inseparable from loving God.

And what is James’ final personal test for true ‘spirituality’? 1:27b

Keep yourself unstained (not polluted) by the world (system). Adopting it’s corrupt morals