

Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church

Connect Learn Grow

Wednesday Bible Study-Theme: Pathways to Spirituality

Review of the Book of James

Lesson # 9 - March 24, 2021-Prepared by: Pastor Artee Williams

I. Subject: Doing is Insufficient- James 1: 22-25

II. Introduction

In James 1: 19-21 the focus is on righteous speech as a demonstration of obedience to God's word. In verses 22-25 James calls for obedient action as the proper forum for demonstrating commitment to God.

In verse 22-25 James admonishes believers to receive the word and practice the word and warns that it is never enough to merely hear the word.

James places much emphasis on what must be done with the Engrafted Word, it must be obeyed.

James begins his teaching with the phrase: " But be ye" a Command to keep on becoming, the phrase speaks to a habit, a way of life for believers. James encourages believers to Continually be Doers, to put the Word of God into practice.

III. Key commands, spiritual principles and spiritual disciplines

1. In James 1: 19-25 we find thirteen (13) action words as follows:
  1. Swift to hear-verse 19.
  2. Slow to speak-verse 19.
  3. Slow to wrath-verse 19.
  4. Lay apart-verse 21.
  5. Receive -verse 21.
  6. Meekness-verse 21.
  7. Doers-verse 22.
  8. Hearers-verse 22.
  9. Deceiving-verse 22.
  10. Beholding-verse 23.
  11. Forgetting-verse 24.
  12. Looking-verse 25.
  13. Continuing-verse 25

Why did James list these action words and what do they describe about hearing and doing/obeying the Word of God ?

2. In verse 22 James presents a Command to believers to keep on becoming doers of God's word. James insisted on Obedience that lasts, on Action that is Continuous. Jesus the master teacher pronounced a blessing on those who Hear the Word of God and Obey it-Luke 11:28.

3. God wants a Listener to become a Disciple, an Obedient follower of Jesus. One who Hears the message without Doing anything is Self-Deceived. Such a Listener has made a false evaluation of what he heard, in Matthew 7: 21-27 , Jesus warned against this error.

4. Warren W. Wiersbe -noted Christian author provides helpful insight regarding the ministry of the word described in verses 23-25, a few of his comments are as follows:

a. It is not enough to hear the word. We must Do It. It is not Hearing but the Doing that brings the Blessing.

b. Too many Christians Mark their Bibles, but their Bibles never Mark them.

c. One of the main purposes for Looking into God's Word is for Examination.

d. As we Look into the Mirror of God's Word , we see ourselves as we really are.

e. James mentions several mistakes that believers make as they Look into the Mirror of God's Word:

1. First they merely Glance at themselves as that read the Word of God. A Curiosity reading of the Bible never Reveals our deepest needs. It is the difference between a Candid Photo and an X-Ray.

2. The second mistake is that they Forget what they See. If believers were Looking deeply enough into their hearts , what they would See would be Unforgettable. It is helpful for us to remember how the saints of the Bible responded to the true knowledge of their own hearts. Isaiah cried, " woe is me! For I am undone-Isaiah 6:5. Peter cried, " Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O lord" -Luke 5: 8.

3. The third mistake is that they fail to Obey what the word tells them to do. They think that hearing is the same as Doing, and it is not. If we are to use God's Mirror profitably, then we must Gaze into it carefully and with serious intent as James states in verse 25, no quick Glance will do. Perhaps one reason we Glance into the word is that we are afraid of what we might see.

5. Additional spiritual principles described in James 1: 22-25 are as follows:

a. To respond to the Engrafted Word with Passive Hearing ( no visible response ) is Delusional.

b. The Passive Hearer is Self-Deceived, thinking he is Spiritual simply because he Hears the Word of God.

c. Obedience to the Word of God is the true test of Spirituality.

d. A Superficial Glance at the Word of God followed by Forgetfulness will never lead to Action/Obedience.

e. Hearing the word but not Obeying it, is like a man who looks in a Mirror and Forgets the Needs that are Revealed by the Mirror.

f. When looked into , the Mirror Reveals man's need for salvation and how to be made right with God through Jesus Christ and also what a man may yet Become through Jesus Christ.

h. When a believer carefully looks into the Word of God and Continues therein, that believer will not forget what has been Revealed.

i. In verse 25 James refers to the Word of God as the Perfect Law of Liberty. The Law of God/ Word of God is Perfect, free from error and is the complete revelation of God to man. Therefore, the Law of God also produces Liberty or Freedom in the lives of those who obey it. All who bring themselves under the Law of God experience Liberty/ Freedom.

j. James concludes that when a believer is Swift to Hear, and Lays Aside all that hinders the operation of the Word in his life, Practices the Word, and then Continues in the Word, that person is then a Doer of the word, and will be Blessed.

#### IV. Application

1. What is the difference between a Glance at God's Word and Gazing into God's Word?
2. How does James describe a Doer of the Word?
3. How will you apply this lesson to your life?