

**TO LIVE IS CHRIST****Listening and Doing      James 1:19–27**

*“Do not merely listen to the word.... Do what it says.” James 1:22*

**Day 1: Read James 1:19–27.**

1. What three things does James exhort his readers to do in verse 19?
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
2. Next to your answers for question 1, write the opposites. How are your relationships affected by the responses James exhorts us to have, and how are they affected by their opposites?
3. Consider the following passages and explain the relationship that exists between our hearts and our speech: Prov. 4:23–24; 10:20, 32; Lk. 6:45.
4. Identify situations in your life in which you tend to be quick to speak and/or quick to become angry. Ask the Spirit of God to show you where you need to repent and what He would have you do to bring about reconciliation in your relationship(s).

**Day 2: Read James 1:20–21.**

5. James says that “man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires” (vs. 20). What is the difference (consider both the motive and the goal) between man’s unrighteous anger and God’s righteous anger? (Matt 18:15–17; Jn. 5:30)
6. Anger says: “Something is wrong and something needs to be done to make it right.” Consider the areas in your life where you are angry.
  - a. In which areas can you allow your anger to motivate you to bring about the righteousness that God desires? (vs. 20; Ps. 4:4; Eph. 4:26)
  - b. What things do you need to entrust to God to make right in his own time? (Ps. 37:5–9; Rom. 12:19–21; 1 Pet. 2:21–24)
7. What does it mean practically to “humbly accept the word planted in you” (vs. 21)?

**Day 3: Read James 1:22–25.**

8. Why is it so important that we be “doers” of the word and not just “hearers”? (vs. 22; 2:17; Matt. 5:16; 1 Tim. 6:18–19)
9. How is the law (God’s Word) like a mirror? (Rom. 3:20; 7:7; Heb. 4:12)
10. In Romans 3:21–22, 28 Paul clearly teaches that our faith in Christ (not our works) is the means of justification—i.e., being made right with God. If Jesus came to free us from the law, why does James tell us we have to be “doers” of the law?

**Day 4: Read James 1:25–26.**

11. James probably used the expression “perfect law” as a synonym for sacred scripture. How did Jesus summarize the whole law? (Matt. 22:36–40) How did Paul? (Gal. 5:14)
12. What do you think it means to “look intently” at the perfect law? How do we do this practically?
13. What are some of the results of not keeping a tight rein on one’s tongue? Consider the following verses, as well as your own experience: Prov. 10:19; 12:18; 13:3; 18:6–7.

**Day 5: Read James 1:27.**

14. What two things does God accept as pure and faultless religious acts?
15. What is God’s attitude toward widows and orphans? (Ps. 68:5; 146:9; Is. 54: 4–5; Jer. 49:11)  
How has God modeled his love for widows and orphans in his relationship with us?
16. What practical things can you do to keep yourself from being “polluted by the world” (vs. 27)?  
(Rom. 12:1–2; Phil 4:8; Col. 3:1–2; Heb. 12:1–2; James 1:21)