

**Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service & Bible Study**

**Book Study: Epistle of James
Part 3: James 1:19-27: Listening, Doing and Speaking**

**Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022
Facilitator: Pastor Hubie Berrios**

Breakdown of the Study of the Book of James		
Date	Key Texts	Topic
10/12/2022	Part 1 - Overview of the Book of James	Overview of the Book of James
10/19/2022	Part 2 - James 1:1-18	Responding to Suffering and Trials
10/26/2022	Part 3 - James 1:19-27	Listening, Doing and Speaking
11/2/2022	Part 4 - James 2:1-12	Warning Against Favoritism
11/9/2022	Part 5 - James 2:14-26	Relationship of Faith and Works
11/16/2022	Part 6 - James 3:1-12	Taming the Tongue
11/23/2022	Part 7 - James 3:13-18	Reacting with Wisdom
11/30/2022	Part 8 - James 4:1-12	Submitting Yourself to God
12/7/2022	Part 9 - James 4:13 - 5:6	Warning Against Boastfulness
12/14/2022	Part 10 - James 5:7-20	Patience and Prayer

Introduction:

We are continuing in the Letter of James. In this book that bears his name, James gives the reader wisdom for practical Christian living. Last Wednesday Pastor Jide covered James 1:1-18 and in these verses James spoke about how we can honor, love and serve God in the midst of fiery trials. Tonight we'll cover vss. 19 - 27. In these verses James prods the believers to know God's word and to act accordingly.

Let's look at this verse by verse.

James 1:19 Know this, my beloved brothers. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger. 1:20 For the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

1. James' use of "Know This" and "Everyone Must" lets the reader know that this is an Apostolic directive, not suggestions.
2. James presents an argument based on the greater to the lesser.
3. James knows that believers need wisdom and knowledge, and that we learn more by listening than by speaking. People that talk a lot are not very good listeners. And angry talkers do not hear anything at all. **Proverbs 18:13 KJV He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, It is folly and shame unto him.**
4. Carefully following this pattern leads to speech and actions that edifies others and glorifies God. Not following this pattern has what effect in the life of the believer?

Personal Question: What steps do you have to put in place in order to live out the pattern found in James 1:19

James 1:21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and evil that is so prevalent (in the world) and humbly receive/accept the word implanted in you by others' instruction, which can save you.

1. James is not talking to unbelievers who need to hear the Gospel message of repentance of sin and faith in Christ alone for salvation. He is speaking to believers who need to hear the

Gospel message of repentance of sin and faith in Christ alone for present salvation (reformation)

2. James teaches that, for the believer, repentance and reformation are a precondition to humbly receiving the implanted Word, which presently saves.
3. James knows salvation is past (Tit. 3:5), future (Heb.9:28) and present but his concern in these verses is salvation in the present (Phi. 2:12)

Question: Why do you suppose repentance and reformation are a precondition to receiving the implanted Word?

Question: What does James mean by the "Implanted Word?"

James 1:22 "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

1. Listening/reading God's word must lead to action or a fruitful life.
2. Listening/reading God's word with no action is self deception or a fruitless life
3. Jesus said in Jn. 15:8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.
4. Disciples of Jesus are "doers of His word", perhaps we should be called "Do-sciples!"

Question: It's easy to listen to the Word; it's difficult many times to do what it says, why?

James 1:23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone 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 whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

1. James contrasts two men to further cement his teaching on being "Doers" and not "Listeners" only. He literally says: "Don't be this guy, be this guy!"
2. Compare James 1:23-25 with Matthew 7:24-27 (The Wise and Foolish Builders) Also John 14:15 (If You Love Me Keep My Commandments)
3. Both James and Jesus teach that there is blessing for those who gaze into the law, remember it and do it. Real blessing lies in doing God's will, not simply knowing it.

Question: After reading this contrast, how will you start responding to God's Word? Why?

James 1:26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

1. For James religion is either true or false. The truths stated in James are black and white, there are no gray areas.
2. James says true religion (1) controls the tongue, (2) looks after widows and orphans in distress, and (3) remains unpolluted by the world.
3. Our profession of faith is useless if it doesn't align with how we live and how we treat other people.

Final questions and comments -