

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Study Series: Wisdom for Living – Study of Epistle of James
Part 2: Hearing and Doing the Word - James 1:19-25

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
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Breakdown of the Study of the Book of James		
Date	Passage	Topic
1/31/2024	James	Part 1: Overview of Epistle of James
2/7/2024	James 1:2–11	Part 2: Growing Through Trials
2/14/2024	James 1:12–18	Part 3: The Process of Temptation
2/21/2024	James 1:19–25	Part 4: Hearing and Doing the Word
2/28/2024	James 2:1–13	Part 5: The Sin of Partiality
3/6/2024	James 2:14–26	Part 6: Faith Without Works Is Dead
3/13/2024	James 3:1–18	Part 7: Taming the Tongue
3/20/2024	James 4:1– 12	Part 8: The Cause of Quarrels
3/27/2024	James 4:13– 5:6	Part 9: Sins of the Wealthy
4/3/2024	James 5:7– 12	Part 10: Patience in Suffering
4/10/2024	James 5:13– 20	Part 11: The Prayer of Faith
4/17/2024	James	Part 12: Summary and Conclusion

Introduction

Throughout the pages of the scriptures, there’s a word that gets repeated: “Hear”, or a related word, “Listen”. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word “**Shema**” translates into English as “Hear” or “Listen” and is often used to emphasize the act of listening, understanding, and obeying.

Today’s culture places a value on doing many things at once; we often try to listen while focusing on other tasks, which divides our focus. In the biblical context, “hearing” does not simply include sound reception; but also involves active obedience and an effort to understand. Please note that this passage is written to believers.

Q: *What is Agape word of the Year?*

James 1: 19 (AMP)– “*Understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters. Let everyone **be quick to hear** [be a careful, thoughtful listener], **slow to speak** [a speaker of carefully chosen words and], **slow to anger** [patient, reflective, forgiving].*

3 things to note in the above texts are:

1. **Be quick to hear (Listen):** What does this mean? This is a call to listen with receptive earnestness. Read the bible with listening ears. God reveals himself to us through the bible. Listen with your heart.
2. **Slow to Speak:** we like to talk and love to hear ourselves talk and dominate the conversation. God gave us One mouth, two ears so we should listen more than we talk. Pro.10:19. Pro.31:26 NKJV “*She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness*”.
3. **Slow to anger:** we must be patient and forgiving and not resentful. God’s word keeps us from unrighteous explosive anger. ²⁰*for the [resentful, deep-seated] anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God [that standard of behavior which He requires from us]. **Righteous vs unrighteous Anger. Discuss?***

There are 3 things we must do to grow spiritually: James 4:17 He that know the right he ought to do...

1. **We must hear the word** v.19, Rom 10:17 (Faith Comes by hearing...), Matt.11:15, Rev2:7, 17, 29. Mark 4:9, 23. **What is the difference between having ears and having ears to hear?** Mark 4:13-20. Ps.115:6. In the bible the ear is synonymous with the heart and mind as an organ of cognition.

2. **We must receive the word with meekness** v21 ²¹ *So get rid of all uncleanness and all that **remains of wickedness**, and with a humble spirit receive **the word [of God] which is implanted** [actually rooted in your heart], which is able to save your souls. Eph.4:22*
3. **Be sure to Do it:** v 22-25. *But prove yourselves doers of the word [actively and continually obeying God's precepts], and **not merely listeners** [who hear the word **but fail to internalize its meaning**], deluding yourselves [by **unsound reasoning contrary to the truth**]. ²³ For if anyone only listens to the word, without obeying it, he is like a man who looks very carefully at his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he immediately forgets what he looked like. ²⁵ But he who looks carefully into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and faithfully abides by it, not having become a [careless] listener who forgets but **an active doer** [who obeys], he will be blessed and favored by God in what he does [in his life of obedience].*

What are the factors that affect our ability to do what we hear? How do we live what we believe?

- **The route of reception.** Mark 4:13-20. Talks about 4 types of hearers 1) The careless hearer, who has no understanding, 2) The Superficial hearer, 3) The worldly hearer, and 4) The Receptive hearer.
- **Distraction:** Are you attentive to God's word, allowing it to transform your life, or is your hearing divided causing you to resist His call? Mark 4:24-25 says "Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more. ²⁵ To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. **But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.**"
- **Beware of familiarity with the word:** Receive the word with meekness. V21
- **Sin:** Eph.4:22-31" **Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life**, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, **let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.** ²⁴ **Put on your new nature**, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. ²⁵ So **stop telling lies.** Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. ²⁶ And **"don't sin by letting anger control you.** "Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ **for anger gives a foothold to the devil.** ²⁸ If you are a thief, **quit stealing.** Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then **give generously to others in need.** ²⁹ **Don't use foul or abusive language.** Let everything you say be good and helpful so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. ³⁰ And **do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live.** Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. ³¹ **Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander**, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, **be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.**

What are some of the principles you have learned from coming to Agape? What habits has changed?

Parable of the 2 sons: Matt.21:28-32.

Conclusion: Matt.7:21-27. ²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.** ²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers. ²⁴ "Therefore **everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.** ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

