

James

Lesson 2

Receiving, Applying and
Practicing The Word
James 1:19-27

Introduction

- The Word of God, the gospel, the Word of life, will not do us any good unless we are willing to receive it into our minds, our hearts
- Receiving the Word will not help us unless we are willing to apply, do the Word
- Each day, we must learn to consistently apply the word of God so that our daily lives are radically changed

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Receiving, Applying and Practicing The Word

1. Receiving the Word 1:19-21
2. Applying the Word 1:22-25
3. Practicing pure and undefiled religion 1:26-27

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Receiving The Word

- Most people choose not to receive the Word but follow sinful thinking and attitudes
- James warns Christians that we can fail to receive the Word because we do not eagerly listen with humility and honesty
- We fail to rid ourselves of sinful attitudes such as anger that will keep us from receiving the Word, the only means for our salvation

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Sinful Attitudes Cause Many Not To Receive The Word

Mat 13:13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

Mat 13:14 "In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;

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Sinful Attitudes Cause Many Not To Receive The Word

Mat 13:15 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'

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Christians Must Display Right Attitudes To Receive The Word

Jas 1:19 *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger;

Jas 1:20 for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

Jas 1:21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

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Quick To Hear The Word

Pro 18:13 He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him.

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Quick To Hear The Word

Act 10:33 "So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

Act 17:11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so.

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The Proverbs Teach About Being Slow To Anger

Pro 14:29 He who is slow to anger has great understanding, But he who is quick-tempered exalts folly.

Pro 16:32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.

Pro 29:11 A fool always loses his temper, But a wise man holds it back.

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Anger (Sometimes Translated Wrath)

orge (G3709), originally any "natural impulse, or desire, or disposition," came to signify "anger," as the strongest of all passions.

Notes: (1) Thumos, "wrath" (not translated "anger"), is to be distinguished from orge, in this respect, that thumos indicates a more agitated condition of the feelings, an outburst of wrath from inward indignation,

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Anger (Sometimes Translated Wrath)

while orge suggests a more settled or abiding condition of mind, frequently with a view to taking revenge. Orge is less sudden in its rise than thumos, but more lasting in its nature. Thumos expresses more the inward feeling, orge the more active emotion.

From Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

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To Receive The Word, We Must Put Away Anger

Eph 4:26 BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

Eph 4:27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

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To Receive The Word, We Must Put Away Anger

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

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Honesty and Humility Needed To Receive The word

Luk 8:15 "But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

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Honesty and Humility Needed To Receive The word

Mat 18:3 and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 18:4 "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

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Applying The Word

- With eagerness, humility and honesty, we can receive the Word and gain a proper understanding
- But knowing the Word alone will not save us
- God intends that we apply His Word
- We are deceived if we think we can know His Word but fail to do it

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Applying The Word

Jas 1:22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

Jas 1:23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

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Applying The Word

Jas 1:24 for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

Jas 1:25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

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Applying The Word

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.

Mat 7:22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

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Applying The Word

Mat 7:23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

Mat 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

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Applying The Word

Mat 7:25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

Mat 7:26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

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Applying The Word

Mat 7:27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall."

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Four Errors Often Made Concerning Religion

1. Religion determined by humanity not God
2. Religion largely involves ceremonial rituals
3. Religion has little affect on our daily behavior
4. Our individual obligations to God can be transferred to others

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Practicing Pure And Undefined Religion

Jas 1:26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless.

Jas 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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Four Truths James Reveals Concerning Religion

1. Religion determined by God not humanity
2. Religion pleasing to God involves consistent daily practice of His Word
3. This pure and undefiled religion will change our daily lives in a radical way
4. Controlling the tongue, helping widows and orphans and being unstained by the world are direct personal responsibilities that cannot be fulfilled by anyone for us²⁶

We Can Only Be Pure, Undefined and Unstained By The World Through Jesus' Blood

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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We Can Only Be Pure, Undefined and Unstained By The World Through Jesus' Blood

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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