



Just Grow Up!

James - A Manual for Maturity

Changed By a Word
May 27 & 28, 2023

James 1:19-27 (NLT)

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

I'm Only Changed by the Word of God When I:

1

Welcome God's Word into every area of my life.

Verse 21b | *...and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts.*

Attitudes for a Receptive Heart:

- **Be careful**
Verse 19a | *You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak.*
- **Be calm**
Verse 19b | *...and slow to get angry.*
- **Be clean**
Verse 21a | *So get rid of all filth and evil in your lives.*
- **Be compliant**
Verse 21b | *...and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts.*

James 1:22-25 (NLT)

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

“How-To” Guide for Applying God's Word:

- **Read it consistently**

Verse 25a | *But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free.*

ASPECTS**7 Ways to Get the Most out of Reading God's Word:**

A - is there an **attitude** to change?

S - is there a **sin** to confess?

P - is there a **promise** to claim?

E - is there an **example** to follow?

C - is there a **command** to obey?

T - is there **truth** to believe?

S - is there **something** to thank God for?

- **Recognize the principles**

Verse 25b | *...and if you do what it says...*

- **Recall these principles constantly in life**

Verse 25c | *...and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.*

James 1:26-27 (TPT)

If someone believes they have a relationship with God but fails to guard his words then his heart is drifting away and his religion is shallow and empty. True spirituality that is pure in the eyes of our Father God is to make a difference in the lives of the orphans, and widows in their troubles, and to refuse to be corrupted by the world's values.

How?

- With words of hope and healing

Proverbs 15:4 (TPT)

When you speak healing words, you offer others fruit from the tree of life. But unhealthy, negative words do nothing but crush their hopes.

Proverbs 18:21 (TPT)

Your words are so powerful that they will kill or give life, and the talkative person will reap the consequences.

- With actions of humility and grace

James 1:27 (TPT)

True spirituality that is pure in the eyes of our Father God is to make a difference in the lives of the orphans, and widows in their troubles, and to refuse to be corrupted by the world's values.

Luke 4:18-19 (TPT)

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, and he has anointed me to be hope for the poor, healing for the brokenhearted, and new eyes for the blind, and to preach to prisoners, 'You are set free!' I have come to share the *message of Jubilee*, for the time of God's great acceptance has begun."

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But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.



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_____ to apply every principle in God's Word to my life.

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