

JAMES 1:22-25

1. VERSE 22--WE HAVE AN IMPERATIVE COMMAND OR A DEMAND.
2. VERSE 23,24 --THE BELIEVER'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORD.
3. VERSE 25--THE DESIGN OF THE WORD--TO PRODUCE RIGHTEOUS WORKS.

\*\*\*MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN\*\*\*

SALVATION

GIFT

PRESENT  
POSSESSION

John 3:36; 5:24; 6:47.  
Titus 3:5-8  
Eph. 2:8,9  
James 2:17,22

REWARDS

EARNED

FUTURE

I Cor. 3:11-15  
Psalm 11:3  
2 Tim. 4:8  
Rev. 22:12

\*\*\*GOD WILL JUDGE THE UNBELIEVER ON THE BASIS OF HIS WORKS--EVIDENCE OF HIS DAMNATION

\*\*\*GOD WILL JUDGE THE BELIEVER ON THE BASIS OF HIS WORKS--EVIDENCE OF HIS YIELDING TO SPIRIT

VERSE 22

I. THE WORD OF GOD

A. DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER BOOK

1. INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (II TIM. 3:16).
2. SPIRIT REQUIRED TO UNDERSTAND IT (I COR. 2:9-11,14).
3. BOOKS WRITTEN BY MEN ARE FOR ENTERTAINMENT, INSPIRATION, AMUSEMENT, OR INTELLECTUAL STIMULATION.

II. EACH BELIEVER IS WRITING A STORY WITH HIS LIFE

A. IT WILL BE EVALUATED AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.

3. II COR. 3:2 "LIVING EPISTLES, KNOWN AND READ OF ALL MEN."

- C. "You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day  
By deeds that you do and words that you say.  
Men read what you write, whether faithless or true.  
Say, what is the gospel according to you?"

- D. "We are the only Bible the careless world will read.  
We are the sinner's gospel; we are the scoffers' creed.  
We are the Lord's last message, given in deed and word.  
What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?"
- E. "It's easier to preach than to practice.  
It's easier to say than to do.  
Most sermons are heard by the many,  
But taken to heart by the few."

### III. JAMES 1:22 "BUT BE YE DOERS OF THE WORD."

- A. "DOERS" MEANS CREATIVE ACTION, PRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE.
- B. ALLOW THE WORD OF GOD TO FIND REPRODUCTION IN ONE'S LIFE.

#### FIXED LAWS OF NATURE

THE SCIENTIST, ENGINEER, AND DOCTOR MUST COMPLY TO THEM.

ILLUSTRATION: THE SPACE SHUTTLE IS DESIGNED TAKING INTO ACCOUNT  
FIXED LAWS, WHICH WILL ENABLE IT TO BREAK THROUGH  
NATURAL BARRIERS (HEAT), AND RETURN SUCCESSFULLY.

#### FIXED LAWS OF THE SPIRITUAL REALM

THE BELIEVER HAS AT HIS DISPOSAL FIXED LAWS.

WITH THE WORD OF GOD BEFORE ME, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ME, I HAVE  
EVERYTHING GOING FOR ME. THERE IS NO REASON I CANNOT BE SUCCESSFUL.

\*\* "NOT HEARERS ONLY." \*\*

- I. "FAITH COMES BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD" (Rom.10:17)
- II. ONE MUST HEAR BEFORE HE CAN KNOW WHAT IS EXPECTED OF HIM.
- III. ONCE ONE HEARS, GOD EXPECTS HIM TO PUT IT INTO PRACTICE.
- A. JESUS SAID, "IF YOU CONTINUE IN MY WORD, THEN YE ARE MY DISCIPLE  
INDEED" (JOHN 8:31).
1. DISCIPLE- student, a follower of the Lord
  2. John 6:46 "WHY CALL YE ME, LORD, LORD, AND DO NOT THE THINGS WHICH I SAY?"
  3. Matthew 7:24 "THEREFORE, WHOSOEVER HEARETH THESE SAYINGS OF MIN AND DOETH THEM, I WILL LIKEN HIM UNTO A WISE MAN WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON A ROCK..."
  4. Matthew 12:46-50 "WHOSOEVER SHALL DO THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN, THE SAME IS MY BROTHER AND SISTER AND MOTHER." --A new relationship based upon obedience

5. John 13:13-15,17. "IF YE KNOW THESE THINGS, HAPPY ARE YE IF YE DO THEM."
6. John 14:15 "IF YE LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS."
7. John 15:10 "IF YE KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS, YE SHALL ABIDE IN MY LOVE."
8. Also Galatians 6:7,8; I John 2:3; 3:22; 5:3-5

#### IV. THE HEARER ONLY

##### A. NOT A STUDENT, BUT AN AUDITOR

1. COMES TO CLASS AND LISTENS
2. MAKES NO PREPARATIONS, NOR DOES HE STUDY
3. HAS NO INTENTION OF TAKING EXAMS
4. IS A DETECTIVE

##### B. IT IS EASY TO BECOME A SPIRITUAL AUDITOR

1. LISTEN WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST INTENTION OF MAKING ADJUSTMENTS
2. MOST ARE AUDITORS, NOT STUDENTS, IT WOULD APPEAR.

##### C. ILLUSTRATION: THE JEW AND THE CHRISTIAN ON GIVING

A Jew and a Christian got acquainted at work. Through their discussion they agreed to attend eachother's churches. The Christian noticed the Jew writing a check, found out he was tithing, and mentioned that he believed in "grace giving." He explained that he first pays all the bills, buys the groceries, purchases the things he wants to fulfill his every desire, and then gives the Lord whatever is left over. The Jew replied, "THOU ALMOST PERSUADEST ME TO BE A CHRISTIAN."

##### D. LIKENED TO A MAN BEHOLDING HIS FACE IN A GLASS (MIRROR).

1. "MAN"- MEN ARE MORE PRONE TO GLANCE IN A MIRROR THAN WOMEN.
2. A MIRROR IS DESIGNED TO ENABLE ONE TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS. WHAT OTHER PURPOSE COULD IT SERVE?
3. Vs. 24--"HE BEHOLDS HIMSELF, GOES HIS WAY, AND STRAIGHTWAY FORGETS WHAT MANNER OF MAN HE WAS."

#### THE WORD OF GOD IS A MIRROR

- I. HEBREWS 4:12 SAYS THE WORD OF GOD CRITICIZES "THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART."

- II. THE WORD REFLECTS TO US WHAT WE ARE.
- III. THE FLESH DOES NOT NATURALLY RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD.
- A. Romans 8:7,8 "The carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God."
  - B. THE FLESH DOES NOT LIKE THE WORD OF GOD.
  - C. THOUGH THE BIBLE IS THE BEST-SELLER, IT IS THE LEAST READ.
  - D. WHO WANTS TO READ A BOOK THAT SHOWS HOW SINFUL AND CORRUPT YOU ARE?
- IV. ILLUSTRATION: THE MOUNTAINEER AND THE MIRROR
- Years ago tourists began to move into the mountains of Tennessee. After some visitors were camping in the Smoky Mountains, a mountaineer went down to their campsite to see what they might have left. He found a mirror and was amazed. He looked into the mirror for a long time, and finally said, "I never knew my Pappy had his picture taken!" He took it home and tucked it under the pillow in the loft. But, his wife saw him out of the corner of her eye, and when he left, she found it and looked in it. She exclaimed, "So that's the old hag he's been running around with!"
- V. THE WORD OF GOD SHOWS US WHAT WE ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CAUSING US TO SEE WHAT WE ARE IN CHRIST SO THAT WE CAN UTILIZE THE DIVINE ASSETS FREELY GIVEN TO US IN HIM.

**\*\*THE HUMBLE MIND\*\***

STORY OF F.D. MEYER. He was always under the impression that God's gifts were put on high shelves. Thus, the taller one would become the more blessing he would have at his disposal. He found that this wasn't true. God put his best gifts on the lower shelves. In the measure we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, in that measure he can reveal to us his best gifts.

A HUMBLE MIND ACKNOWLEDGES FAILURE AND DELIGHTS IN CORRECTION.

"THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM."

THE KEY TO SUCCESS IS TO DELIGHT IN REPROOF, REBUKE, AND CORRECTION.

"BUT WHOSO LOOKETH INTO THE PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY..."

- I. THE LAW OF LIBERTY IS THE WORD OF GRACE
- II. IT IS THE LOOKING GLASS OF THE WORD OF GOD

**\*\*THE LAVER\*\***

- I. MADE OF BRASS--REFLECTING WHAT THEY APPEARED TO BE
  - II. A PLACE TO WASH
  - III. NECESSARY BEFORE THEY COULD ENTER THE HOLY PLACE
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**\*\*THE LAW OF GRACE\*\***

- I. SAME AS THE LAW OF LIBERTY
  - II. "THE GRACE OF GOD TEACHES US TO DENY UNGODLINESS AND WORLDLY LUSTS, TO LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY, AND GODLY IN THIS PRESENT EVIL WORLD."  
TITUS 2:12
  - III. UNDER GRACE, THE BELIEVER IS UNDER THE LAW OF LOVE.
    - A. THE FULFILLING OF THE LAW (ROM. 8:2-4)
    - B. TO BE FREE BY THE GRACE OF GOD IS TO BE FREE TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS (ROM. 8:4).
    - C. WORD OF GOD FREES US FROM THOSE THINGS CONTRARY TO THE GOD'S PERFECT WILL, AND ENABLES US TO FULFILL GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.
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**"AND CONTINUETH THEREIN"**

- I. INVOLVES A CONTINUATION OR PERSISTENCE
  - II. OCCUPATION WITH CHRIST
  - III. "NOT A FORGETFUL HEARER"--MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD DAY AND NIGHT  
WE ARE WHAT WE THINK.
  - IV. NOTE HEBREWS 5:11-14
    - A. WHEN WE FAIL TO USE THE WORD, WE LOSE OUR ABILITY TO DISCERN
    - B. WE MAKE DECISIONS CONTRARY TO THE WILL OF GOD
    - C. WE FORFEIT JOY AND PEACE, AND THE RELATIONSHIP GOD DESIRES TO HAVE WITH US THROUGH HIS WORD.
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"THERE IS JOY IN SERVING JESUS"

PAGE ONE

James 1:22-25 (Brief outline)

vs. 22 We have an imperative command or a demand.

vs. 23,24 The believer's attitude towards the Word

vs. 25 The design of the Word--to produce righteous works

Make a distinction between heaven, which is a gift, and rewards, which are earned. Titus 3:5-8; Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:17,22

Note: Salvation is a present possession. John 3:36; John 5:24; John 6:47.

Note: Rewards are yet future. I Cor. 3:11-15; (Psalms 11:3); II Tim. 4:8; Rev. 22:12.

As God will judge the unbeliever on the basis of his works, which will be obvious evidence of his damnation, the believer will also be judged by his works, which will be obvious evidence of his yieldedness to the Spirit.

In verse 22, we are introduced to the Word of God, a book that is different from any other book, for it is inspired by the Holy Spirit (II Tim. 3:16). Thus, the requirement needed to understand it is that one must possess the Spirit (I Cor. 2:14; I Cor. 2:9-11).

Books written by men to their fellow man may be read for intellectual stimulation, inspiration, entertainment, or amusement. Millions of books are written about fiction stories. Each believer is writing a story with his life, and the Spirit of God, if allowed to fulfill the will of God through that person's life is writing a story which will be evaluated at the judgment seat of Christ.

Paul mentions in II Cor. 3:2 that we are "living epistles, known and read of all men." Someone has put it this way: "You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day by deeds that you do and words that you say. Men read what you write, whether faithless or true. Say, what is the gospel according to you?"

"We are the only Bible the careless world will read. We are the sinner's gospel. We are the scoffer's creed. We are the Lord's last message, given in deed and word. What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?"

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"It's easier to preach than to practice. It's easier to say than to do. Most sermons are heard by the many, but taken to heart by the few."

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James 1:22 "Be ye doers of the word."

"Doers" means creative action. It means a productive performance. It is allowing the living Word to find reproduction in a person's life. There are fixed laws to which scientists, engineers, and doctors comply in order to be successful. When sending up a space shuttle into orbit and then designing it in such a way whereby it comes through the heat barrier and lands, they are taking into account fixed laws. If they can compensate for these laws by other laws, then the flight can be successful.

The believer has at his disposal fixed laws that are perpetually in motion. When I, by faith, utilize or appropriate the Word of God, it can reproduce itself successfully through me. The Word of God before us, with the Holy Spirit within us, the believer has everything going for him. There is no reason why he can't be successful.

NEXT POINT:

"Not hearers only."

We are told that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

Before one can work or do something they must know what is expected of them, but once they hear God expects them to put it into practice. John 8:31--"Jesus said, If you continue in my word, then ye are my disciples indeed."

A disciple is a student, a follower of the Lord. In John 6:46 Jesus said, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Jesus said in Matthew 7:24, "Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon a rock"..and so on through verse 27.

In Matthew 12:46-50 his mother and brethren stood without desiring to speak with him, and he closes by saying, "Whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother and sister and mother." --A new relationship based upon obedience.

John 13:13-15,17 says "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

John 14:15--"If ye love me, keep my commandments."

John 15:10--"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love."

And verse 14, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you."

Galatians 6:7,8

I John 2:3; 3:22; 5:3-5

When one is a hearer only, he is not a student, but an auditor. An auditor is one who comes to class, he listens but makes no preparations, nor does he study. You see, he's going to take no exams, nor is he going to turn in any papers. He's merely there to audit the class, audit the books, evaluate the pastor. He plays the role of a spiritual detective. It's easy to become a spiritual auditor. It's easy to listen without the slightest intention of making any adjustments in one's life. Most Christians, it would appear, are auditors rather than students.

Illustration: A Jew and a Christian got acquainted at work. In their discussion, they decided to go to each other's church. The Christian observed the Jew writing a check, found out that he was tithing. The Jew asked the Christian how he gives, and the Christian replied, "Under grace. I pay the bills first, buy the groceries, purchase the things necessary to meet my every whim and fulfill my ever desire. If there's anything



left over, we then give it to the Lord." The Jew replied, "Thou almost persuadest me to be a Christian."

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vs. 23,24 If we hear, but will not do, then we are likened to a man that beholds his natural face in glass.

Of course, the reference to a mirror is actually polished brass. We have a man mentioned. I have heard that men are more prone to look in mirrors than women. But is not a mirror designed to enable the one who looks into it to make a change, to make an adjustment, or correction? What would be the purpose in looking if no changes were to be made? Vs. 24 "He beholds himself, and goes his way, and straightway forgets what manner of man he was."

We're told in Romans 8:7,8 that "the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God." The flesh cannot naturally respond to the Word of God. By nature it does not like the Word of God. This is the reason why the unsaved do not read the Bible. Though the Bible is the best-selling book in the world, it is the least read. Who wants to read a book that shows them how sinful and corrupt they are? We want books that flatter us.

HEBREWS 4:12 says that the Word of God criticizes "the thoughts and intents."

As the mirror of the Word reflects to us what we are, the objective of the Spirit is to make adjustments.

ILLUSTRATION: Years ago when tourists began to move into the mountains of Tennessee, and after some visitors were camping in the Smoky Mountains, a mountaineer went down to the campsite to see what they might have left.

He found a mirror and was amazed. He looked into this mirror for about fifteen minutes, and finally he said, "I never knew my Pappy had his picture taken." So he tucked it under his shirt, took it to his cabin, and hid it under the pillow in the loft. But his wife was watching him out of the corner of her eye, so after he left she went up into the loft, found the mirror, and she looked in it. She exclaimed, "So that's the old hag he's been chasing after!"

The Word of God shows us what we are for the purpose of causing us to turn to Christ and see what we are in Him so that we can utilize the blessed divine assets which have been so freely given to us in the person of Jesus Christ.

VS. 25 "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty..."

The law of liberty is the word of grace, but here again we note that the law of liberty was used as a looking glass (vs. 23), and we are to look into the looking glass of the Word of God. It is said that the laver was made of brass. It was a place where they could wash, but it was also a place where the brass would reflect what they appeared to be. This was necessary before they would go into the holy place.

The story was told by F.D. Meyer that he was always under the impression that God's gifts were put on shelves and that the taller one would become, the more gifts that would be at his disposal. Of course, the best gifts would be on the higher shelves. Then he said that he found that wasn't true. God put his best gifts on the lower shelves. In the measure that one can humble themselves before the mighty hand of God, in that measure God then can reveal to him his best gifts. You see, a humble mind acknowledges failure, admits to failure, and delights in correction. That's why it says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." The key to success is to delight in reproof, rebuke, and correction.

You see, the law of liberty is the law of grace, for it is the grace of God that teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present evil world" (Titus 2:12).

Under grace the believer is under the law of love. The law of love, of course, is the fulfilling of the law (Rom. 8:2-4). To be free by the grace of God is to be free to fulfill all righteousness (Rom. 8:4). The Word of God frees us from those things which are contrary to God's perfect will and liberates us and enables us to fulfill God's righteousness. The Word of God is able to set in motion through the believer's life power which is consistent with God's own character.

Notice that it says "continue therein." This involves a continuation or a persistence, occupation with Christ--"Not a forgetful hearer,"--meditation upon God's Word night and day, so that you will "be like a tree planted by the rivers of water." We are what we think. We're a doer of the work, and God blesses his deeds, his production, his fruit. Note Hebrews 5:11-14. When we fail to use the Word of God we lose our perspective, our ability to discern; and consequently, make decisions that are contrary to God's will for our life. We forfeit the joy and peace and the relationship that God wants to have with us through His Word.

As we close, let us sing a stanza of "There is Joy in Serving Jesus."