

## Just Do It (James 1: 22-25)

After giving the admonition to receive the word humbly that has been planted in them, James portrays the importance of hearing God's word. God's word demands our attention, and if we believe God's word to be God's word, then we need to hear it very carefully. That is the first step of receiving God's word, but one should not be satisfied with that experience. James argues that one needs to be a doer of the same word. Failure to comply with the word will result in self deception. Doers of the word do not merely hear God's word, but put it into every day practice. Those who have been regenerated by the word of God are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. The word that has given life and rebirth needs to be heard very carefully. We must never forget the fact that those words are not merely human, but they are the very words of God that can bring about great transformation and change the very course of life. James advises his readers never to be content with the conversion experience, for that is only the beginning of a Christian life. It is implied here that by just hearing and not listening, they would deceive their soul. Obedience to what has been heard is very important for Christian growth and development. Many fail to evaluate their lives in light of what has been heard, and thereby would not allow the word to influence their lives.

The deception:

How often people deceive themselves by thinking that by merely hearing the word they have fulfilled their obligations! But simply being in agreement with what we have heard does not necessarily make us comply with the requirements. A man who goes to church and listens to the reading and expounding of the word and thinks that listening has made him a good Christian has deceived himself. For example, if we heard about prayer and do not pray, heard about worship, but do not worship, heard about the need to reconcile with our brother and fail to act on it, it will lead to gross self deception. James, driving his point home uses the word of God as a mirror that shows our true reflection. While the mirror shows us a reflection of ourselves, the word shows the plight of the inner man. Beware that we do not make the mistakes that are common among people.

- Don't just glance at yourself-Don't just read God's word casually or as a religious exercise but ponder on the word, mull over it and meditate on the word.
- Don't forget what you just saw-Take time to remove the spots & smudges of your face.
- Don't forget to obey- Look into God's word with serious intent and live in the

light of God's word. That requires us to take time, attention and sincere devotion. A few minutes with the Lord will not accomplish deep spiritual examination.

The word of God plays a vital role in revealing the true corrupted nature and the disorders of our hearts and lives. When a Christian compares his life with the world, we might look better, but when we look through the word, we would see ourselves as God would see us.

Listening to the word is immensely beneficial, but never forget that it can be equally dangerous and deceptive. Never settle for an illusion as you hear; but meditate and think about that word, so that it becomes a part of your life. Unless we act on God's word, we can never claim that we are living the word. It can only be effective when the word has moved from our minds into our hearts and finally impacting our actions. "Inward practice by meditation, outward practice in true observation."-Baxter.

Anything less than truly practicing God's word will lull us into a false sense of security. Therefore, take heed, lest you be deceived. James concludes by saying that the end result of obedience to God's word is blessing in everything one does. Do what the word says!