

WANTING TO CHANGE IS NOT ENOUGH



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Introduction

In the book of James, we have a very practical command: “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says” ([James 1:22](#)). Or, as the ESV puts it, “Be doers of the word.” James urges people who listen to God’s Word to demonstrate a sincere commitment to the Lord by reacting to what they hear with obedient action.

Adversity-Difficult or un-Favorable circumstances.

1. How many of you want to change something in your life?

While God uses trials to perfect His saints, adversity often brings out the worst in people. Not only are we more prone to anger and harsh words, but we may also strike out in anger.

2. Have you ever blown up on someone?

- How easy it is to "**blow up**" in times of adversity, saying and doing things that are foolish and hurtful.

3. What are some reason people might get angry with God?

4. Share a time when you were angry with God?

5. How did we you handle our anger with God?

6. Does anger work?

- Anger actually does work, in that it intimidates others, or makes them feel guilty, so that they give in to us in an unhealthy way.
- Some people have learned that anger is a way of manipulating others. How many children today get their way by throwing a fit?
- Human anger only produces sinful results, but James tells us that it will never achieve God's righteousness.

7. Rather than getting angry we should do what?

- Humbly yield to God's word which has the power to help us.

8. How often do you see your reflection in a mirror?

- Some say that the average person looks in a mirror 8 to 10 times a day. Not including glancing at our reflection in a store window and smart phone screens.

(James 1:25) *But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it --he will be blessed in what he does.*

9. Why do we look so often?

- We look to check our appearance before meetings or social gatherings.

- If something was wrong, we want to fix it.

10. What does this verse mean in your opinion?

(James 1:22) Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

- But be sure you live out the message and do not just listen to it and so deceive yourselves.
- But be doers of the word, and not only hearers of it blinding yourselves with false ideas.

YOU CAN'T EXPECT CHANGE WITHOUT TAKING THE STEPS TO CHANGE.

11. What's the danger of Just reading and listening to the Bible?

(James 1:22–24) Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

- *James said that reading or hearing God's word without acting on it is like looking in a mirror and forgetting what we've seen.*
- Don't just read and listen to the Bible but do what it says. It's a simple command, but yet it is so hard for people to follow. When people only listen to what the Word says, they are deceiving themselves.
- In this scripture, the analogy of looking at ourselves in the mirror is used. The word of God allows us to see ourselves for who we really are. When we look into the mirror intently, we can study ourselves and our outward appearance.

12. What behaviors do you have that works against the change you desire?

Conclusion:

Obedience is the key to receiving blessings in our life. Obedience goes beyond just hearing the Word of the Lord. We must obey and put into action what we hear.