
Hearers and Doers

James 1:22-25

Man's behavior is governed by what's in his heart (Prov. 23:7; 4:23; Matt. 12:34). The way a person conducts himself becomes the test of true genuine saving faith (Rom. 2:13, John 14:15,23 15:10,14; 1 John 2:3, Luke 11:28, John 13:17, John 14:24).

Our response to God's word determines the condition of our heart and the nature of our faith (1 John 3:10). The proper response or reaction to the Word of God is obedience (Luke 6:46-48). There are only two reactions to God's word.

1. _____ Observance

In John 5:39 Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for searching the Scriptures but not believing Jesus. Deception comes in three forms:

- a. *We think, but _____*
Satan deceives us (Revelation 12:9)
People around us deceive us (Matthew 24:4).
We can also deceive our own selves (Jeremiah 17:9)
Many will be deceived in the day of judgment (Matthew 7:22-23)

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- b. *We look, but _____*
Nothing is hidden before God's sight (Mark 4:22).
Let's desire God's word like the Psalmist then (Psalm 119:93).

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- c. *We hear, but _____*
This illustrates the rich young ruler in Mark 10:17-22.
Hebrews 4:2 says that the hearing of the word must accompany faith. “

2. _____ Obedience

There are two things that are clear and helpful in describing this attitude:

- a. *The Duty of _____*
Jesus said in John 8:32 that His truth (Words) makes us free.
In Psalm 40:8, the Psalmist teaches us to delight to do God's will.
Psalm 119:32 says that we are to run after God's commandments.

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- b. *The Delight of _____*
Note verse 25 “...and is not a forgetful hearer...” Note that it is in doing the word (of God) that a man is truly blessed (Psa. 19:9, 11; 106:3; 119:2). Psalm 1:3 says that the man who obeys God's word “shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in due season, ... **whatever he does shall prosper.**”

A Christian is someone who receives the word with readiness, cleanness and meekness. He bears fruit to prove that the proper reception of the word. He does not casually and merely observe the Word but carefully and continually obey God's Word. He is the one who is truly blessed!