

**James 1 “Word People”**  
**James 1:18-25**  
**September 15, 2024**

James 1:18-25

18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

James is helping us understand the good and natural relationship the Word of God is meant to have in our lives.

James 1:18

18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

God’s relational initiative.

1 Peter 1:23-25

23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.

The Word of God endures forever. If this Word is your life, you live forever.

Firstfruits. Lives set apart in worship and in character.

James 1:19-21

19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Take in the Word of God. Ingest it.

### Jeremiah 15:16

16 Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

### Revelation 10:8-11

8 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."

9 So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." 10 And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. 11 And I was told, "You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."

A receiving posture.

### James 1:22-24

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

Real faith turns into real change and real ways of living.  
"What can I obey?"

### James 1:25

25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Scripture becomes practical because in the doing comes freedom.

You can trust God's word because you know the person of the Word.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- Discuss why the communication style of being "quick to listen and slow to speak" is positive. How does this posture impact becoming angry? Why? Now apply this same posture to how we approach God's word. What do we learn?
- In verses 1:19-21, James seems to contrast anger and humility ("receive with meekness"). What do you think James is highlighting?
- "Be doers of the word, not hearers only." Why does James link together hearing and doing?
- What would be the impact on the way you approach Scripture if instead of asking, "What does this passage mean?" to ask "What in this passage can I obey?"
- In verse 1:25, James calls God's word the law of liberty. Can you explain how James wants us to see Scripture as freeing?

- What is one thing that you can do this week to apply this passage to your life?