

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Nov 2017

FAITH IN ACTION: #2: Listening And Doing

INTRODUCTION

When are you most likely to lose your temper? What helps you calm down?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: In the ancient world, it was common for people to hear a teacher. But if you followed the teacher and tried to live what he said, you were called a disciple of that teacher. Jesus is looking for disciples - doers, not just hearers. "Here James presents a third test of a true believer. The first was his response to trials (1:2-12). The second was his response to temptation (1:13-18). The third is his response to the truth revealed in the Word of God (1:19-27)." ¹

Read James 1:19-27

1. What does James say is the relationship between speaking, listening and anger? (19)
2. What are the benefits of being 'quick to listen'?

Note: The person who cannot get angry at sin does not have much strength to fight it. James warns us against getting angry at God's Word because it reveals our sins to us. People rebel against God's Word because it tells the truth about them and their sinfulness.²

3. What helps you control your tongue when you are angry? What hinders you?
4. What should a Christian clean out of his or her life? (21) How? **1 Jn 1:8-9; Ps 139:23-24 2 Sam 12:13 Heb 4:12** What difference does it make?
5. Why does James place so much emphasis on obedience to God's word? (v 22) **Jn 14:21** Why is this difficult to implement?

Note: Too many Christians mark their Bibles, but their Bibles never mark them!³

6. How can the law provide freedom? (25) **Romans 8:2; Ps 119:45; Jn 8:34; Jn 8:31-32**
7. How is a person's speech related to the credibility of his or her faith? (26)
8. How does James describe "pure" religion? (27)
9. How can we keep from being polluted by the world? (27) **1 Jn 2:15-17; Jas 4:4; Rom 12:2**

APPLICATION

- What do you need to change so that your walk matches your talk?

A man complained to his doctor that his wife's hearing was bad. The doctor said he should run a test by asking her, "Honey, what's for dinner?" from 20 feet, 15 feet, etc. When she hadn't responded at 5 feet he got right in her ear and repeated the question. She responded, "For the fifth time, we're having macaroni and cheese!"

Our culture tends to consider people "spiritual" merely if they have an interest in spiritual things. That is not the biblical perspective. Only those who hear God's voice and obey it are spiritual.⁴

¹ MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1998). *James*. MacArthur New Testament Commentary (65). Chicago: Moody Press.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Jas 1:19). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁴ Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Jas 1:22). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.