



Week Two: James 1:19-27

“Listening and Doing”

Reading and Study Guide for the
week of Sept. 10-17, 2023

Memory Verse for the Book of James: *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (James 1:22)*

This week, read James 1:19-27. Some questions to answer and think about this week with your family or Community Group:

1. When are you most likely to lose your temper?
2. What instruction did James give about the relationship between speaking, listening, and anger? ([1:19](#))
3. What is the relationship between anger and righteous living? ([1:20](#))
4. What should a Christian clean out of his or her life? ([1:21](#))
5. What is the relationship between listening to God’s Word and doing it? ([1:22](#))
6. What analogy did James use to describe a person who does not do what the Bible says? ([1:23-24](#))
7. What promise did James give to the person who studies God’s Word and practices it? ([1:25](#))
8. How can being quick to speak and quick to anger get you into trouble?
9. How do displays of anger and temper affect the witness of a Christian?
10. In what situations this week will you need to curb your anger? How can you?
11. What do you need to change in your actions this week to match your talk?
12. Whom will you help this week in obedience to God’s Word?

Life Application Bible Notes

[1:19](#) When we talk too much and listen too little, we communicate to others that we think our ideas are much more important than theirs. James wisely advises us to reverse this process. Put a mental stopwatch on your conversations, and keep track of how much you talk and how much you listen. When people talk with you, do they feel that their viewpoints and ideas have value?

[1:19, 20](#) These verses speak of anger that erupts when our ego is bruised: “I am hurt;” “My opinions are not being heard.” When injustice and sin occur, we *should* become angry because others are being hurt. But we should not become angry when we fail to win an argument or when we feel offended or neglected. Selfish anger never helps anybody.

[1:21](#) James advises us to get rid of all that is wrong in our lives and “humbly accept” the salvation message we have received, because it alone can save us.

[1:22-25](#) It is important to listen to what God's Word says, but it is much more important to obey it and to *do* what it says. We can measure the effectiveness of our Bible study time by the effect it has on our behavior and attitudes. Do you put into action what you have studied?

[1:25](#) It seems paradoxical that a law could give us freedom, but God's law offers us a true reflection of our sinful condition and gives us the opportunity to ask for God's forgiveness (see [Romans 7:7, 8](#)). As Christians, we are saved by God's grace, and salvation frees us from sin's control. As believers, we are free to live as God created us to live. Of course, this does not mean that we are free to do as we please (see [1 Peter 2:16](#)). We are now free to obey God.

[1:26](#) See the notes in [chapter 3](#) for more on controlling the tongue. No matter how spiritual we may think we are, we all could control our speech more effectively.

[1:27](#) In the first century, orphans and widows had very little means of economic support. Unless a family member was willing to care for them, they were reduced to begging, selling themselves as slaves, or starving. By caring for these people, the church put God's Word into practice. When we give with no thought of receiving, we show what it means to truly serve others.

[1:27](#) To keep ourselves from letting the world corrupt us, we need to commit ourselves to Christ's ethical and moral system, not the world's. We are not to adapt to the world's value system, which is based on money, power, and pleasure. True faith means nothing if we are contaminated with such values.

James Study Guide questions and notes are from

