

“POWER IN THE WORD”

Text: James 1:19-25

Subject: The Liberating Power of the Word of God

Introduction

James 1:19-25 is an awesome revelation of:

1. How loving the Word will accelerate internal change.
2. How looking into the Word will promote supernatural activity inside us.
3. How leaving the Word will nullify all of God's intention.
4. How liberating power will continue active, as long as we are a doer of the Word (and not a hearer only).

Let's get right to it

- ◆ How many of you want to continue transforming into the likeness of Jesus?
- ◆ How many of you don't want to hinder your spiritual progress one bit?
- ◆ How many of you want to go deeper and accelerate His work? (You don't want to waste any time just going through the motions.)

The Process of Liberation Through the Word

Step #1: The Loving of the Truth (Vs. 19, 20)

“Wherefore my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.” (V. 19) “For the wrath of man work not the righteousness of God.” (V. 20)

Fact: In Verse 18, James tells us that we were born again through the Word of Truth.

Fact: In Verse 19, James begins to describe the process, how the Word of God produces internal change.

Fact: In Verses 19–25, our text, we discover that the Word of God cannot change us unless we receive it in the proper way:

How do I reveal my love for the truth? In three ways.

1. **“Swift to Hear”** (Which means):
 - ◆ Readiness to listen
 - ◆ Quick to hear what God has to say.
 - ◆ Willingness for God to get in my face.

Question: How many of you are willing to be swift to hear the Word of God?

2. **“Slow to Speak”** (Which means):
 - ◆ Restrained speech to talk back.
 - ◆ Refusing to argue with God.
 - ◆ Refraining myself from resenting what God tells me.

Question: How many of you are willing to be slow to speak (or not talk back and argue when God speaks to you?)

3. **“Slow to Wrath”** (Which means):

- ◆ I’ll not get angry and close my mind to God.
- ◆ I’ll not rebel against when His truth reveals my defects.
- ◆ I’ll “calm down” and “chill out” and quit justifying myself when God convicts me about something.

Question: How many of you are willing to say “yes” to God (and instead of getting angry at God, thank God for loving you enough to keep you on the Potter’s Wheel?)

Step #2 The Looking Into The Truth (V. 21)

“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted Word which is able to save your soul.” (V. 21)

Question: If I love the truth of the Word and am willing to be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath, what’s next for the power of internal change to take place?

Answer: One thing; a prepared heart!

Fact: In Verse 21, James sees the human heart as a garden.

Fact: A garden has great potential for good or bad.

Fact: If the garden is left alone, the soil produces weeds.

Fact: If the garden is tended to, the soil produces fruit.

Question: What prepares my heart to grow fruit instead of weeds?

Question: What prepares my heart to experience the supernatural ministry of the Word of God?

Two Ingredients:

Ingredient #1: Cleanliness

“Lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness.” (What is it?)

- ◆ The word “filthiness” means stained or dirty.
- ◆ It refers to unclean garments or clothes.
- ◆ It’s a picture of taking off anything that corrupts me and throwing it aside.
- ◆ The Greek word for “filthiness” is (RUPARIA) which comes from the Greek word (RUPOS)
- ◆ (RUPOS) is sometimes used to refer to wax in the ear. (What a picture.)
- ◆ A person with wax in the ear cannot hear the Word of God clearly.
- ◆ If he really cares about hearing it, he must take out the wax so he can hear and receive.

Question: 1. Is there anything whatsoever in my life that distracts me or hinders me from receiving the Word through a clear channel?
2. Am I willing to be humble enough, transparent enough, and honest enough to lay it aside if God points it out to me?

Ingredient #2: Lowliness (V. 21)

“...Receive with meekness the engrafted Word which is able to save your soul.”

Question: How do we receive the implanted Word?

Answer: “With meekness”

Question: What does it mean to receive the truth with meekness?

Answer: It means to accept the Word, honor it, submit to it, refuse to argue with it and don't try to adjust it to the way I live.

- ◆ It means to receive it with an open heart and a ready mind.
- ◆ It means to receive it with an anxiousness to do it. **(What's the result?)**
- ◆ The word "engrafted" means "to implant and grow".
- ◆ It means that when you sit under the pure Word of God; what God says, is actually being born within your heart. (It is birthed in your spirit).
- ◆ Thus it begins to grow, live and conquer temptations that seek to destroy you.

Step #3: The Leaving of the Truth: (This is the dangerous step)

- ◆ This step separates the wheat from the chaff.
- ◆ This step separates the growing from the non-growing Christian.
- ◆ This step determines who is changed (and who just hears but doesn't change).

Fact: In Verse 21, James compares the word to seed!

Fact: In Verse 23, James compares the word to a mirror!

Question: What's the main purpose for owning a mirror?

Answer: So you can see yourself and make the necessary adjustments to look as neat as possible.

Question: How is the Word like a mirror?

Answer: We see ourselves as we are in the Word and then ask God to help us make the necessary adjustments.

Question: Why does the mirror (the Word) change some, but doesn't change others?

Answer: James gives us three reasons.

Three Errors People Make With Their Bible

Mistake #1: I Call The "Hurry Up" Mistake

(V. 24) "For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way."

- ◆ This is glancing or reading carelessly.
- ◆ This is reading or hearing out of duty.
- ◆ This is a brief devotion to appease my conscience.
- ◆ This is the mind set of "hurry up preacher, I've got to go my way."
- ◆ This is self-deception (thinking I can hear and learn the word, and then go out and live any way I please).

Mistake #2: I call The "Out of Sight, Out of Mind" Mistake

(V. 24) "...And straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."

- ◆ This occurs to millions every Sunday.
- ◆ This is hearing and knowing the truth, yet putting it aside as soon as service is over.
- ◆ This is taking in the Word, but forgetting it at the first opportunity.
- ◆ This is seeking what God wants to change, but quickly becoming distracted by other things.
- ◆ This is looking in the mirror, but not staying there long enough to let the mirror do its job.

Mistake #3: I Call The “Self Deceived” Mistake

(V. 22) “But be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

- ◆ This is substituting hearing for doing.
- ◆ This thinks that hearing (by itself) is beneficial.
- ◆ This shouts, “Amen preacher” but forgets that the blessing is in the doing, not the reading, hearing or learning.

Let’s All Read John 14:21

“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me; and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”

- ◆ Two By-Products of Doing the Word:
 - #1. You’ll be loved of the Father.
 - #2. The Lord will manifest Himself to you, to the degree you walk in obedience.

Step #4: The Liberation of the Truth

(James 1:25) “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the word, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

Question: Why is the Bible called the “perfect law of liberty”?

Answer: Because the Holy Spirit takes the law and liberates people from the servitude of sin.

- ◆ The Word produces freedom from every bondage.
- ◆ The Word delivers from every bad habit.
- ◆ The Word influences the soul for the better.
- ◆ The Word overcomes internal enemies against you.
- ◆ The Word gives victory over fiery darts hurled towards you.

John 8:31, 32

“If you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Let’s all read Hebrews 4:12

“For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Five Things Describe The Word of God Here

1. The Word of God is “Quick” (ZON)
 - ◆ This word means alive and living.
 - ◆ It means the Word is always active and working.
 - ◆ It means the Word is quickening its message of life to the human heart.
2. The Word of God is “Powerful” (ENERGES)
 - ◆ This means energizing.

- ◆ It means the word of God literally gives you energy and power to live your Christian life.
3. The Word of God is “**Sharper than a Two-Edged sword**”
 - ◆ The word “sharper” (TOMOTEROS) means to cut.
 - ◆ It means “to convict” and “to penetrate”.
 4. The Word of God is “**Piercing**” (DIIKNOUMENOS)
 - ◆ This word means “to go through and pierce”.
 - ◆ It means that the Word of God goes right through to the soul and spirit of man
 - ◆ The word literally takes our soulish nature and separates it from the spiritual call upward.
 5. The Word of God “**Discerns the Thoughts and Intentions (Purpose) of the Heart**”
 - ◆ The word “discern” (KRITIKOS) means to judge, to sift, and to analyze.
 - ◆ It means that the Word of God is able to penetrate anyone to the deepest recesses of their being, and sift out, analyze and expose the intentions of the heart.”

This is why Romans 1:16 is so true...Paul said:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; why not? For it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who will believe it.”

What’s it mean?

1. It means that the gospel is supernatural in power and ability to work in anyone.
2. It means that this gospel will birth salvation (simply deliver anyone from any sin and save them from the powers of destruction).

Conclusion

Ask: Has the Holy Spirit been speaking to you?

Ask: Has the Word of God been exposing any defects?

Ask: Do you believe that God can change anything in you that needs to be changed?

Ask: Are you willing to let godly sorrow work deep repentance (that produces lasting change?)

AMEN
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