

## Hearing and Doing

[Jas 1:22-25 ESV] 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.

### I. Intro

- A. Remember the style of this letter:
  1. Truth presented in basic form
  2. James then circles back to it and digs deeper and deeper as we go.
- B. Today we have the intro to a truth that will be revisited in the next chapters.
  1. Chapter 2, 14-26 unpack this in great detail
  2. Do not be confused in regards to this truth:
    - a) We are saved by grace through faith
    - b) And that produces works in us
    - c) Both things are absolutely true.
  3. To say you have faith, but you don't desire the work of righteousness, is a misguided understanding of salvation.
- C. Hear the truth and Do the truth
- D. If you are a follower of Christ, a believer in Christ, you will bear the fruit of Christ.
- E. There is a very clear point made in several places in scripture, we need to embrace this truth rather than ignore or explain away this truth.
  1. [Eph 2:8-10 ESV] 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
  2. [Mat 7:15-23 ESV] 15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

### II. Text

- A. Verse 22
  1. Doers of the word
  2. Not hearers only
  3. Deceiving yourselves
- B. Verse 23-24
  1. Without action, hearing only is deception
  2. Like looking in a mirror, then forgetting what you look like
- C. Verse 25
  1. Look into the perfect law of liberty
  2. Persevere
  3. Actions matching beliefs
  4. Find blessing in doing

### III. Points

#### A. Hearing

1. The word used here, is simple and does not imply understanding
2. Hearing is valuable and important:
  - a) [Rom 10:17 ESV] 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
  - b) People need to hear the gospel!
  - c) This is vital to the mission
3. Hearing is a step among many that happen as people come to faith.
4. Let us proclaim the truth with our voices so they can hear
5. Let us also proclaim the truth with our actions, so they believe!

#### B. Doing

1. The doing of the word is clearly our assignment.
2. If you've heard to statement: Love is a Verb, you've heard this truth spoken in another way.
3. To say you love, but fail to show you love, you deceive yourself.
4. Terry Horton: "You do what you believe"
  - a) This quote inspired my dissertation
  - b) You can see this in the followers of Christ that have gone before us
  - c) You can see this in sacrifices that have been made by believers throughout the church age.
5. Here is what James will continue to teach:
  - a) If you believe, you will do.
  - b) If you come to faith by the grace of God, and believe in the promised messiah, you will DO the works.
  - c) DOING does not make you saved, but it is fruitful evidence that you are saved.
6. Living out your faith is not a work unto righteousness, but evidence you have come to faith.

#### C. Persevering

1. The same GRACE that brings salvation, is the same GRACE that brings perseverance
2. We don't switch gear to a works based relationship after entering the relationship by grace through faith.
3. You persevere by the strength and power of Christ who dwells in you:
  - a) [Rom 8:9-11 ESV] 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.
  - b) Christ brings life and perseverance by His indwelt Spirit
4. We are saved to persevere in service
  - a) [Rom 5:1-5 ESV] 1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
  - b) Real faith means we sign up for the challenges and trust God to empower and bless.

#### D. Blessing

1. There is blessing in doing

2. To only HEAR and fail to DO is missing the blessing of the faith walk.
3. The walk faithfully in the Lord means we have the promises from God, and those include challenges and blessings.
4. Fruitful ministry will be blessed by God, because we continue to walk in faith.
5. God's blessing is seen most clearly in the way he works through the church in salvation.
6. We need to get our minds around this truth:
  - a) God brings blessing according to His own will
  - b) God brings LIFE, HOPE, MINISTRY, and thousands of other blessings
  - c) We respond in WORSHIP through our life

IV. Close

- A. I appeal to my favorite passage of scripture one more time:
- B. [Rom 12:1-2 ESV] 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.