

A Study of the book of James *Is your faith visible?*

James 1:22 Be doers of the word, and not hearers only. Otherwise, you are deceiving yourselves.

Hearing + Believing = Doing

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23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 and after observing himself goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but a doer who acts, this man will be blessed in what he does.

James 1

26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue, he deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.

27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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True faith causes us to search the Word with hunger

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True faith causes us to dwell on the Word so that it is a part of us

Luke 8:15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

John 8:31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

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Jeremiah 31

31 “The days are coming,” declares the Lord,

“when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

...

33 “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

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True faith allows the Word to cut deep and change the heart

Hebrews 4

12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it pierces even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

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James 3:2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

Luke 6

43 “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. 45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

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2 Timothy 3

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

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