

James: A Letter from Jesus' Brother **Doing the Word — James 1:22-27**

Introduction

The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah says that our hearts are deceitful above all else (Jer 17:9). But God has given us a tool which can expose all deception — His Word. In James 1:22-27 God exposes one of the most dangerous and subtle deceptions we face.

What does it mean to be a hearer and not a doer?

It means you are a hearer of God's Word (v.22)
It means you hear — and then forget (vv.23-24)
It means you do not do God's Word (vv.22,27-28)

What deception do these hearers-who-are-not doers face?

They are deceived in thinking that they are pure and undefiled — forgiven and accepted — by God (vv.26-27).

James is telling us that if we are going to be forgiven and accepted by God — doing is necessary (see also Mat 7:21; I John 2:3).

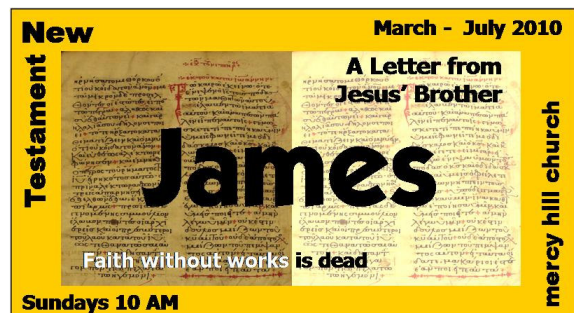
Why is doing absolutely necessary?

Not because our doing has to be perfect.
Not because our doing earns acceptance and forgiveness from God.
But because our doing shows that our trust in Jesus is genuine.

How do we start doing?

Understand that everything Jesus calls us to do, He will enable us to do. Everything (Phil 4:13).
Understand that apart from Jesus we can do nothing (John 15:5).

So look to Jesus; trust Jesus; humble yourself before Jesus; gain strength and encouragement from His Word; and start doing.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Have you ever rationalized away your hearing-but-not-doing? How did you try to rationalize it?

Do you agree that if you are hearing-but-not-doing then your faith is worthless — you are not pure and undefiled and accepted and forgiven by God? Why or why not?

Does it make sense to say that doing is necessary — not because it earns salvation — but because it shows I have the faith that brings salvation?

In what area are you hearing but not doing? What are you going to do about this?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

New **March - July 2010**

Testament **A Letter from Jesus' Brother James**

Faith without works is dead

Sundays 10 AM **mercy hill church**