
YOUR PART MATTERS: Do the Word

James 1:22-27

SPEAKER: Kyle Corbin | **DATE:** October 4, 2026

OVERVIEW

1. God's Word Acts as a Mirror (James 1:22-25)

- **It Reveals the Truth:** Scripture shows us what is really happening in our hearts, not to condemn us, but to expose where change is needed.
- **It Demands a Response:** The purpose of hearing God's Word is not simply to gain information but to be changed by it.

2. Don't Walk Away and Forget

- **Passive Hearing vs. Action:** Just as looking in a mirror, noticing something wrong, and walking away without fixing it makes no sense, hearing God's Word without acting on it is equally foolish.
- **Heart to Action:** God's Word is meant to move from our heads into our hearts, and ultimately into concrete action.

3. Spiritual Gifts Are Meant to Be Used

- **Action Over Ownership:** Possessing a spiritual gift means nothing if it stays sitting on a shelf.
- **Faithfulness Over Fame:** Your contribution doesn't need to be grand or impressive—it just needs to be faithful.

- **No Age Limit:** You don't have to wait until you are older, know the whole Bible, or hold a title to serve; God uses people right where they are now.

4. It Starts With the People Right in Front of Us (James 1:26-27)

- **Practical Evidence:** Real spiritual growth shows up in everyday ways - our words, caring for the vulnerable, and maintaining integrity in a secular culture.
- **Living It Out in the Familiar:** Faith is tested and lived out in our everyday environments and relationships, especially at home or with those we are closest with.

5. The Word Has to Become Visible

- **Freedom, Not Legalism:** God's Word is "the law that gives freedom." We don't obey rules to earn God's love—we follow Jesus because He has already redeemed us.
- **The Word In Us:** The goal of following Jesus is to become people who look more like Jesus.

QUESTIONS

Use for community group discussion or personal reflection

GO DEEPER

1. Can you think of a time when you were so preoccupied that you completely missed something obvious right in front of you?
2. How does James' picture of the mirror help us understand the purpose of Scripture?
3. Why do you think James says that hearing the Word without responding can actually cause us to "deceive ourselves"? (v.22)
4. What does it mean that God's Word is described as "the perfect law that gives freedom"? (v.25)
5. What is the difference between self-awareness and transformation?
6. What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping us live out what God's Word teaches? (If needed, look at Jn 14:26; 16:7-8; Gal 5:22-23; Rom 8:26-27)

MOVE FORWARD

1. Why might we sometimes avoid looking honestly at ourselves through Scripture?
2. In your experience, what helps you move from reading Scripture to actually applying it?
3. How does God's grace affect the way you think about obedience?
4. If the goal of following Jesus is to become people who look more like Jesus, what characteristics of Jesus do you most want to see developed in your own life?
5. What would faithful obedience look like for you over the next seven days? Be as specific as you can.

Our Vision



To be a church where you belong, joining with God to open doors and bring the hope of Jesus as He makes all things new