

STUDY 3

LISTENING AND DOING

Workbook

James 1:19-27

Obedience is often viewed as something nice and necessary for children or dogs, but stifling for individuality and highly valued independence. James takes issue with this line of thinking. As Christians we are called to humbly accept what we hear in God's Word and put our faith into action. Rather than restricting us, this obedience results in our living with freedom and blessing.

1. What do you think characterizes a "good listener"?

Read James 1:19-27.

2. How will the commands given in verse 19 help us to develop spiritual maturity?

3. What can anger never accomplish? Why not?

4. How is *accepting* the word different from merely *listening* to it (verse 21)? What habits hinder our accepting it?

5. Listening to the word is only the first step. Applying the illustration in verses 23-24, what happens if we don't act on what we hear?

6. What is identified as the "mirror" in verse 23? In what way is the Word of God liberating?
See Leader's Notes.

7. What does perseverance mean in this context?

Contrast the results in the lives of the mere listener and the one who puts into practice what he or she has heard (verses 22, 25).

8. What do you think of when you describe a person as "religious"?

9. How does James describe a truly devout person (verses 26-27)?

10. What does it mean to keep from being "polluted by the world"? See Leader's Notes.

11. Why do you think these three areas of life (verses 26-27) are important to God the Father?

12. Think of instances when you have paid only momentary attention to God's message (e.g., the last sermon you heard; the last time you read the Bible for yourself). Why did you fail to put it into practice? Ask God for help in taking steps to obey what you hear.