



Title: Responding to God's Truth

Date: October 1, 2023

Scripture Text: James 1:19-27

Series: The Behavior of a Believer

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We are continuing the series The Behavior of a Believer, a study of the book of James. The God of the universe, Creator and Sustainer of all things has left a message for us. It is the Bible. Of all that He has done, this is specific information and instructions He has provided for us so we can know Him better and know how He wants us to live. So, with such valuable information provided by God Himself, it seems we would place a high priority on knowing it cover to cover, yet statistics show that less than 1 in 5 Protestants read their Bible daily. For His people to thrive, we need to be in His word regularly to help equip us for engaging the world around us. Let's take a look at what it looks like to properly respond to the Word of God.

I. Receive the Word of God (James 1:19-21)

We are given three ways to receive the word: quick to *hear*, slow to *speak* and slow to *anger*. Quick to hear is an intentional willingness to hear/listen to the word. This can be through personal Bible study or from a preacher/teacher. Slow to speak supports being quick to hear in realizing it's not about what we have to say but what God has to say. Being slow to anger is a willingness to accept God's teaching and respond accordingly, instead of taking offence or trying to defend your position.

- Describe an example of what it looks like to be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.
- Why are all three elements important to be present?
 - What can happen when one is missing?
- [Verse 21](#) says that it's not just about receiving God's word. Two other elements are listed. What are they?
 - We must also remove all filthiness and wickedness. What are examples of these elements?
 - Why is removing them important?
 - In addition, we are to receive God's word with humility. How does humility help us in receiving God's word?

Morningside Church

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II. Reacting to the Word of God (James 1:22-25)

Being quick to hear the word is good but is not enough. We must also be doers of the word. James describes the person who only hears God's word and does not do it as one who sees their image in a mirror and as soon as they walk away forget what they looked like. James teaches that for the one who hears and does the word will be blessed in what they do.

- When it comes to growing and maturing in our Christian life, how is hearing, and not doing a hindrance to that growth?
- Describe how the Christian life is a life of action.
- List examples of those in the Bible who were doers.
 - What did they do?
- What are examples of things the Bible instructs us to do?
- Why is it important to include both hearing and doing?
 - How can doing without hearing get a believer off course?
- What are ways to improve our remembering of what we hear?
- How can your appropriate response to God's word, hearing and doing, be an example and encouragement for others?

Neither I nor any other preacher can see into your hearts ... but God is looking, for nothing can be hidden from him.... Do not deceive yourselves by coming eagerly to hear the Word and then failing to do it. If it is a good thing to hear, it is a much better thing to do. If you do not hear, you cannot do, and therefore you will build nothing. But if you hear and do not do, then what you are building will be a ruin.

Augustine