

The Response God wants to His Word

James 1:22-27

I. Don't just listen to God's word; Obey it (James 1:22-25).

A. We can deceive ourselves by thinking we are obeying God's word (1:22).

How we deceive ourselves (James 1:22)

- We merely agree – We think we obey God's word just because we understand it and agree with it.
- We obey selectively – We think we obey God's word, but we really just apply it in areas we think are important (and good at).

B. Illustration: Like a man in the mirror (1:23-25)

1. The Hearer who forgets (Unchanged)
2. The Hearer who acts (Changed by God's word)

The Perfect Law of Liberty (James 1:25)

Living under Grace instead of Law

- Now (since Christ fulfilled the Law) God empowers us to obey His word through freedom (grace)
- Our "duty" under the Old "Law" can become our "desire" under the New "Law" (grace). To obey Christ is seek to please Him

- The person who continues in God's word and seeks to please God will be blessed by God.

II. God seeks genuine obedience, not just religious activity (James 1:26-27).

A. True worship is not religious activity (1:26).

- If we think we are *worshippers*, but our tongue reveals a character problem, we are not!

B. True worship is genuine obedience (1:27).

- External Obedience – Care for needy people in tangible ways.
- Internal Obedience – Avoid pollution by the world.