

Louder Than Words #3
Doing What You Hear

Word

Scripture Reference

James 1:19-27

Discussion Questions

1. How do you feel when you see someone you respect doing what he or she tells others not to do?
2. There are Christians who are like patients that don't follow their doctors' orders to get well. They hear God's Word and understand its instructions, but don't follow through. When you as a follower of Jesus Christ do not do what you hear from the Word of God, your actions tell the world that you don't really believe that the Word of God is unerring and infallible. Thus, it is vital that as an evidence of your genuine faith, you do what you hear from the Word of God. Read James 1:19-27. This passage gives three charges on how a believer needs to do what he/she hears:
 - a. **First charge: Listen to God's Word (v. 19-21).** James clearly says that every man should be swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to get angry. What is the relationship between speaking, listening and anger? When the Word of God confronts you, do you justify your sin instead of carefully listening, not saying anything nor reacting? Discuss what verse 20 says about the connection between anger and righteous living. How can being swift to anger get you into trouble? Does the wrath of man produce the kind of righteousness you should have?
 - b. **Second charge: Do what is instructed in God's Word (v. 22-25).** As a follower of Christ, you are not only to read or listen to the Word of God, but you are also to listen with an expectation to do what you heard. If you don't, James tells us that you are deceiving yourself. The action of doing what you hear is an action that speaks louder than words about your authentic faith in Jesus Christ. Share how you have decided to change and get things right with God after hearing an instruction from the Word of God. How did your

transformation impact your Christian testimony? What good things happen to those who hear and take the challenge to apply what they hear (v. 25)?

- c. **Third charge: Show that you do what you hear (v. 26-27).** James did not only exhort you to do what you hear, but he wants you to *show* that you do what you hear. Followers of Christ should not live out their faith in secret nor brag about their religiosity or boast about their holiness. How is your speech related to the integrity of your faith (v. 26)? What specific actions described in verse 27 show your faith? In your community, who are the most uncared for groups or individuals to whom you should be showing your love and care? What are you doing about it?

Walk

As you live out your faith, you need to listen to God's Word, do what is instructed, and show that you are doing what you heard by serving others and by living a life that is different from the world. Reflect on what you may need to change in your actions to match your talk. Think of someone whom you should help this week in obedience to God's Word.

Worship & Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word that reminds me to be a doer of Your Word and not a hearer only. Forgive me for my disobedience, for the times I willfully choose not to follow Your Word, even though I know what You want me to do. Change my heart, Lord, that it may reflect Your own, that Your desire replace my own. May I have the courage to live out my knowledge of You, in telling others about Jesus and in serving them, especially outside the church where those who do not know You see the kind of God You are through me. In my speech, in my actions, may others know You. In Jesus' name. Amen.