



Just Grow Up!

James - A Manual for Maturity

Changed by a Word

1. Read James 1:19-27. If we are to overcome anger, moral filth, and evil in our lives, what must we do according to this passage? What do you think it means to “humbly accept the word planted in you?”
2. From verse 22 in the above passage, if you just listen to the word and don’t do what it says you are deceived. What do you think is the deception?
3. Of everything you have learned from God’s word up to this point, what do you find to be the hardest thing to apply in your life? Some Christians treat the word of God like a buffet: They choose to do the things that appeal to them and then ignore the things they do not like or disagree with. How is this contrary to what James says? Who does James say that God blesses? Do you think this mean that God does not bless those who take the buffet approach?
4. Read Hebrews 4:12. What does this verse tell us about God’s word? What do you think it means?
5. As you read God’s word, Pastor Rick gave seven things to ask as you read. He used the acrostic “ASPECTS” to help us remember them, what are they? How do you think these questions could help you as you read?
6. James says that it is important to remember what you read so you can apply it in your life. What can we do to help us remember what we read in God’s word?

ANSWERS

1. In order to overcome the bad things we do in our lives it says we must humbly accept God's word. Humility toward God's word means that I am willing to submit my will to whatever God's word teaches. We are taught the meaning of God's word by the Holy Spirit and if we are unwilling to do what He teaches us, then there is no reason for Him to teach us.
2. The deception is that you think that you are a spiritual person because of what you know of God's word and that God is honored by just your knowledge. God's word is of no benefit if we do not apply it and we only grow when we apply it. 1 Corinthians 8:1 actually tells us that getting more knowledge without applying it causes a person to become prideful, which is the opposite of humility.
3. In His word, God clearly intends us as Christians to obey all of His instructions. He does not give us the option of picking and choosing what we will and will not apply to our lives, like the buffet approach. If you take the buffet approach to God's Word, there is no promise anywhere in the Bible that God will bless you. If you do not know what God wants you to do because you are unaware of what He says, that is one thing. If you know what God says and you deliberately refuse to do it, that is a completely different situation and God does promise that He will discipline willfully disobedient children.
4. This verse tells us that the words of the Bible are different than the words in any other book. They are alive, they have the power to change us and the ability to help us discern our own thoughts. In John 1:1 and 14 it says that one of Jesus' names is "The Word". The word of God has as much power as Jesus had, because as a word is how a thought is manifest, so Jesus and the words He spoke are what make God known and seen.
5. The seven questions are: A—is there an attitude I need to change? S—is there a sin to confess? P—is there a promise to claim? E—is this showing me an example to follow? C—does this tell me a command I need to obey? T—is this a truth I need to believe? S—is this something I need to thank God for? By asking and answering these questions as you read, it forces you to try to understand what God is saying to you. You must first understand what God is saying before you can think about how to apply it.
6. There are a couple of things that we can do to help us remember what we read. The first is answering the questions from the last question. Another is to actually write down the answers to those questions, to write down what we learn as we read. Writing something helps you remember it more than just hearing it. One of the most important and valuable things we can do is to memorize God's word so we can recall what it says even when we are not reading.