

## **How Not to Handle the Word of God**

**James 1:19-27**

James identifies some obvious instructions and warnings about \_\_\_\_\_ to hearing God's Word in **James 1:19-27**.

First, we must \_\_\_\_\_. When God is speaking to His people, there should be a \_\_\_\_\_ about you to be present and ready to hear.

To hear means to perceive; to hear with \_\_\_\_\_. Sometimes we \_\_\_\_\_ God's own Spirit who is gently communicating the Word to our spirit. G. B. Duncan once observed, "God still comes where he can find someone \_\_\_\_\_ enough to listen."

Additionally, \_\_\_\_\_ hinders our ability to hear God's Word with understanding. Anger dulls the voice of God, in part because "human anger doesn't produce the \_\_\_\_\_ God desires."

Hearing the Word is hindered by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. God doesn't want to serve a meal of His Word on a \_\_\_\_\_.

Another hinderance to hearing the word with understanding is a lack of \_\_\_\_\_. Believers may come to think there is not much \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ left to do.

In vs. 22, James finally comes to the one hinderance he spends the most time addressing. Failure to \_\_\_\_\_ the Word you do hear is like \_\_\_\_\_. Our lives change for the better and we experience God's blessedness when we read the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word and follow its \_\_\_\_\_.

James saw a problem in Christianity: believers content with having the \_\_\_\_\_ of religion. Appearing religious, we may deceive others, or we may deceive ourselves into thinking we are \_\_\_\_\_. But we don't control our \_\_\_\_\_. We don't care for the \_\_\_\_\_ among us. We don't avoid the \_\_\_\_\_ practices of the world. Hearing without doing is \_\_\_\_\_ before God.

What good have you heard God say that you should do but \_\_\_\_\_ done? Let's not merely \_\_\_\_\_ to the Word we have heard and so deceive ourselves. Let us \_\_\_\_\_ what it says.