

# James 1:19-27

## Doing What You Hear

Topics: [Religion](#), [Perfect law that gives freedom](#), [Humbly](#), [Doing What You Hear](#)

Now that we are clear that the sources of temptation to do evil are inside us and that the wisdom and gifts to resist are available from God, James can exhort us to use God's good gifts to do what is right. As you read [1:19-27](#), ask God to convict you.

### Listening and doing ([1:19-27](#))

1. Below, list both the negative and the positive admonitions James gives in [1:19-27](#).

Postive (to do)	Negative (to reject or stop doing)

2. What do you think you should be quick to listen to ([1:19](#))?
3. How do talkativeness and a quick temper hinder a person from listening ([1:19](#))?
4. Why doesn't human anger bring about the righteousness that God desires ([James 1:20](#))? What is often wrong with our anger? (*Optional*: See [Matthew 5:21-24](#), [38-48](#); [Matthew 6:14-15](#); [Matthew 7:1-5](#); [1 John 3:15](#).)

**Humbly** ([1:21](#)). "With meekness" in KJV. To be meek or humble is to accept what God commands and ordains, and to seek help from God rather than trusting in one's own abilities. It is not a passive tolerance of injustice (especially toward others), but a reliance on God for vindication and a refusal to retaliate when insulted. The meek person is convinced that God's ways are good, so he neither disputes nor resists what God sends.

The humble person does not have a low opinion of himself; he is "not occupied with self at all" Because he trusts God's goodness and His control over situations, the meek person does not have to worry about self-interest, "looking out for Number One," or enhancing his status.

Jesus' meekness ([Matthew 11:29](#)) did not conflict with His courage, concern for justice, and confidence that through God He was competent to do His job.

**Perfect law that gives freedom** ([1:25](#)). The moral teaching of Christianity is based on the Old Testament moral law of the Ten Commandments. The Old Testament Law was "perfect, reviving the soul" ([Psalm 19:7](#)); it was a complete, flawless expression of how people should treat God and each other. It was also "perfectly suited to our nature and situation." Following the Law nurtured a person's soul by keeping him near God. However, men kept the Law imperfectly, but Christ has fulfilled the Law and enables us to fulfill it ([Romans 8:4](#)). Thus, He has made it truly perfect.

The "law of liberty" (KJV) is the law that applies to us who are freed from sin and selfishness. (See also [Psalm 119:45](#) and [John 8:31-36](#).) People often think that God's laws restrict us, but in fact, keeping them through Christ's power frees us more and more from sin to be what we were created to be ([Romans 6:14-23](#)).

5. Summarize what James says about the Word in [1:18](#), [21-22](#).
  
6. How is a man who hears without doing like a man who looks in a mirror and later forgets ([1:23-24](#))?
  
7. How can you avoid forgetting what God's Word tells you about yourself and what you should do ([1:25](#))?
  
8. What does God promise to those who remember and do what they have heard ([1:25](#))?

**Religion** ([1:26-27](#)). In common Jewish and Greek usage, pure and undefiled religion meant ceremonially clean and technically correct temple service and cultic acts. Both Jews and Greeks practiced ritual washing and used consecrated clothes and utensils to assure cleanness. Many pagan cults required abstinence from sexual contact before sacrifice, and the Jewish Law restricted contact with dead bodies, blood, and other substances ([Leviticus 11:1-15:33](#)).

James's definition of pure religion is a rejection (probably intentional) of this idea of external purity.

9. List some of the differences between worthless religion and pure, faultless religion ([1:26-27](#)).

worthless religion	pure religion

10. What one aspect of God's Word in [1:19-27](#) would you like to concentrate on this week?

11. How do you see this truth already at work in your life?

12. How do you fall short or need to grow in this area? (Be as specific as possible.)

13. What can you do this week to be a doer of this truth, acting on it and beginning to make it a habit?

14. How can you make sure you remember to do this?

15. If you have any questions about [1:9-27](#) or this lesson, write them here.