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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

One step forward in obedience is worth years of study about it.  
—Chambers

### **POEM FOR THE WEEK:**

We take delight to teach God's Word,  
We say, "Amen, it's true!"  
But it's of little use to us  
Unless His will we do.  
—D. De Haan

### **SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*  
(James 1:22 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 03, 2010)*

**Series: Many Faces of Wisdom**

**UNIT: Faith and Wisdom in James**

### **NEXT WEEK**

**Living Faith**  
(James 2:14-26)

## **Hearing and Doing** **James 1:19-27**

### **Lesson Background and Introduction**

The title of today's lesson gets at what is really a fundamental human problem: the disconnect in our hearts and minds between hearing and doing. The problem is not really a lack of information but rather what we do or don't do with it. Amid all that the Creator provided Adam and Eve in the garden—amid all the evidence of God's goodness—the first humans heard the command not to eat of the tree in the middle of the garden. But they failed to do what God commanded (Genesis 3) when they failed to tune out a contradictory voice. The disconnect between hearing and doing was and is at the heart of sin. This is also the story of Israel. Even after clear evidence of God's presence during the Exodus, the Israelites failed to obey, instead creating an idol to worship (Exodus 32). During the time of the judges, the Israelites went through relentless cycles of oppression, deliverance, and relapse. They never seemed to make the connection between their actions and the results. This pattern was fundamentally a problem of the heart (see Proverbs 4:23). The power of speech is likewise a thread that can be traced through Scripture, beginning in Genesis 3. As we study, we remember the context of James's audience: economic oppression, some infighting, and persecution (see James 2:1-7; 3:13-4:12; 5:1-6). Openness to what God has to say is the starting point for faithful speech and for the action that accompanies or follows it. The principles of today's first-century text can be brought readily into the twenty-first century. Do we not deal with the same problems of words in relation to action? In one respect or another, God's Word reveals in all of us our stubborn tendency to run our lives on our terms—to value words and actions (or lack of either) in ways that God does not. If we do so after we have confessed that God's way is the only way, then it is time to allow God's Word to assess ourselves anew.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**God's Word** - The Scriptures paint a picture of the wise as those who put the Bible into shoe leather. They hear what the Scriptures say, then allow the Holy Spirit to live it out in their lives. Those who walk in wisdom see God's Word as a daily guide with practical, divine directions for their personal lives.

**The Conversation** - Wise people listen more than they talk because they value what other people say. They listen to other people, assuring them their thoughts and ideas are worthwhile. Even if they disagree, wise people patiently allow others to make their point instead of jumping to an angry conclusion or refusing to listen.

**The Obedience** - Wise people humbly open their minds and hearts to the Lord's teaching. They hear, receive, and commit to follow God's Word. They look in a mirror and remember what they see. They don't walk away and forget 10 minutes later what they look like. Those who claim to study God's Word which offers direction about living an abundant life, but shrug off or can't remember what it says, continue to wander and miss what God is telling them. The heavenly Father is working on transforming His children into the image of Christ. Church services and Bible studies should not involve merely collecting facts and figures, but be a place for a spiritual makeover (Rom. 12:1-2).

**The Evidence** - Growing Christians who are obedient to God's Word have the ability to control their tongues. They say things to others that build up, not tear down. They also care for and visit those who are downtrodden—for example, widows and orphans. In biblical days, widows and orphans stood out as desperately in need. Today, many are still in need along with others who society has forgotten or ignored. James challenged the believer to observe the world's methods and systems, in comparison to what God's Word says. It is always in one's best interest to go the biblical way.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### Hearing the Word (James 1:19-21)

#### *Results of hearing the Word (19)*

- Hearing the gospel (Rom 10:14)
- Hearing about the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:2)
- Hearing the Word of God (1 Thess 2:13)
- Hearing about the Holy Spirit (Rev 2:7)
- From death to life because of hearing God's word (John 5:24)
- Joy and praise because of hearing God's word (Acts 13:48)
- No condemnation because of hearing God's word and believing it (John 5:24)

#### *Righteousness of the Word (20)*

- God's word produces a harvest of righteousness (Luke 8:15)
- A righteousness that is declared to those who are obedient to God's word (Rom 2:13)
- Righteousness is the obedience of God's Word (Deut 6:25)
- Righteousness through God's commands (Ps 119:172)
- Righteousness because God's Word is trustworthy (Ps 119:138)
- Righteousness because God's Word is good (Rom 7:12)

#### *The implanting of God's Word (21)*

- Implanted so that we do not have to sin (Ps 119:11)
- Implanted so that we accept God's instructions (Job 22:22)
- Implanted so our feet won't slip (Ps 37:31)
- Implanted to lead us to obedience (Ps 40:8)
- Implanted so we will accept God's word (Prov 2:1)
- Implanted for us to recognize what is right (Isa 51:7)
- Implanted to teach and admonish one another (Col 3:16)

### Doing the Word (James 1:22-27)

#### *Doing Word is more than hearing only (22)*

- It is more than saying Lord, Lord (Matt 7:21)
- It is doing God's Will (Matt 12:50)
- It is keeping the Word of God (Luke 11:28)
- It is being a good steward of the Word (Luke 12:47-48)
- It is being justified by doing God's Word (Rom 2:13)

#### *Doing Word is continually observing it and living it (23-25)*

- By not forgetting God's Word (Ps 119:16)
- By ensuring our hearts are in line with our words (Ezek 33:31)
- By abiding in Jesus through the Word (John 15:4-8)
- By being steadfast in living God's Word (2 Tim 3:14-15)

#### *Doing Word is more than religious words (26)*

- It is being sanctified, doing good, seeking justice and defending the helpless (Isa 1:15-17)
- It is not being a hypocrite, but being near to God in heart and deed (Matt 15:6-9)
- It is not letting our mouth cause us to sin (Eccl 5:6)
- It is giving God our hearts and observing His ways (Prov 23:26)

#### *It is manifesting the fruit of God (Jer 12:2)*

#### *Doing Word is helping the helpless (27)*

- Helping by undoing bonds and burdens of the oppressed (Isa 58:6-7)
- Helping by feeding, clothing, visiting and entertaining the needy (Matt 25:34-40)
- Helping by at every opportunity doing good (Gal 6:10)
- Helping by providing to those in need when we have it (1 John 3:17-18)

#### *Doing Word is keeping oneself unpolluted by the world (27)*

- By not being conformed to this world (Rom 12:2)
- By being delivered from this evil age (Gal 1:4)
- By not being friends with the world (James 4:4)
- By not loving the world (1 John 2:15-17)
- By overcoming the world (1 John 5:4-5)
- By being born of God (1 John 5:18)