

A TIME TO GROW UP
"God's Transforming Word"
James 1:19-25

INTRODUCTION:

1. Here's what you need to know: "***There is power in the Word of God.***"
 - a) The Word of God has the power to give life - the New Birth.
 - b) The Word of God has power to shape our character and guide our behavior.

2. **Hebrews 4:12** WOW!!!!
 - a) "***The Word of God is living and active***"
 - 1) (It's alive).
 - b) "***sharper than a two-edged sword.***"
 - 1) (It penetrates deeper than a 2 edged sword).
 - c) "***Piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow***"
 - d) "***discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart***"
 - 1) It reaches the inner most being of a person, clear to even the attitude.

3. **Matthew 5:48**

I. COMMIT TO THE WORD

1. Vs 19

2. THREE COMMANDS

- a) **First** - "***Be quick to hear***" (hear what?)
 - 1) What God has to say about the situation your facing.

 - 2) When faced with a trial or a temptation - the Bible should be the first place we go.

- b) **Second Command** - "***Be slow to speak***"
 - 1) **Job 40:2-4**

- c) **Third Command** - "***slow to anger***"
 - 1) **Vs 20**

II. RECEIVE THE WORD

1. Vs 21

- a) "***and receive***"

2. John 9:31

A. CLEAN YOUR EARS

1) Vs 21

- a) "*filthiness*" - in the Greek has to do with "ear wax".
- b) "*rampant wickedness*" - garbage or trash

2) Vs 21

- a) "*receive*" - means to be deliberate or eager

B. CULTIVATE THE SOIL

1) Vs 21

- a) "*and receive with meekness*"
- b) "*the implanted word*"

2. If you are saved the Word is already rooted in your soul.

- a) **A past act.**

3. And Satan is ever busy sowing weed seeds of sin in your soul.

- a) He knows weeds will crowd and choke the Word.

4. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Do not take it lightly when God reveals to you, your sin.

- a) We must react with repentance and humility.

5. **WOW!!!** Do you know why some Christians don't pull the weeds of sin from their lives???

- a) They don't see God for who He is in all His Majesty.

C. CARE FOR YOUR LIFE

1. Vs 21

2. Receiving God's Word CARES for your life in 2 ways.

- a) **It Preserves you Spiritually**

- 1) Far too many believers are dying spiritually.
- 2) Their spirits are shriveling up.

- b) **It Preserves you Physically**

- 1) **1 Corinthians 11:30**

3. 1 Peter 2:1-2

III. REFLECT ON THE WORD

1. After we have received the Word, we must reflect on it so it's truth can shape and guide our lives.

2. Vs 22

A. ONE WAY OR THE OTHER

1. It is far better to do more with less knowledge, than to do less with more knowledge.

2. To be a hearer and not a doer is to delude yourself.

B. WHAT DO YOU SEE?

1. Vs 23

a) "*man*" - means a male

2. Vs 23 is dealing with men and mirrors.

3. Vs 24

4. God doesn't want us to GLANCE in the mirror of His Word, He wants us to GAZE into His Word.

5. Vs 23

a) "*natural face*" - the face you were born with.

IV. ACT ON THE WORD (*How to respond to god's Word*)

1. Vs 25

A. THE CORRECT RESPONSE

1. *Luke 8:4-15*

a) Lack of a Response - Hard Heart (No Root)

b) Shallow Response - Shallow Roots

c) Inadequate Response - Distracted heart

d) Sufficient Response - Fertile heart

B. THE TRANSFORMATIONAL RESPONSE

1. Vs 25

a) "*a doer who acts*"

2. 2 Corinthians 3:18

3. Psalm 139:23-24

CONCLUSION:

1. Vs 25

a) "*the one who looks*"

1) Means to stoop down and look closely @.

a) "*the law of liberty*"

1) It sets you free!!!

2) The Bible doesn't restrain us, it sets us free.

2. John 8:32