

Part 2 - The Blessed Life

Kingdom Collective

Series: Book of James

Heather Cummings - January 18, 2026

James 1:19-27 & James 2:14-26 ESV

Central Truth: The blessed life comes from receiving, hearing and doing the Word of God.

Important Framework:

- Sometimes as Christians we want the blessing of obedience without full obedience to His precepts or commands.
- If we are to understand the book of James, we must understand that Jesus came to seek and save the lost, but he also came to establish His Kingdom, His way.
- God gives us invitational commands from the heart of the Father. These commands lead to a blessed life and the fullness of life in Christ. But we cannot live in the fullness of life in Christ without following His precepts and His ways.

James 1:19-27

I. **Check your soil**

James 1:21

- A. James uses the word **receive = to welcome or accept**
- B. Are you receiving the Word whether you feel ready to obey or not?
- C. As sincere Christians, I don't think that we are often saying an outright no. But we are looking internally and telling God you got the wrong person, or that's not going to happen because of my situation, or I'm not ready to deal with that wound, Lord.
- D. Fully receive this implanted word...
 1. In **Matthew 13:1-9**, we read the parable of the sower. Where Jesus tells the crowd what a heart that is ready to receive the Word looks like - it has good soil.
- E. What does receptive soil look like?

Note: In response to the Holy Spirit or people

 1. My heart is fully engaged
 - a) *no frustration, anger, bitterness, etc.*

2. Tell me what you want to tell me
 - a) *I'm willing to hear anything*
3. I want/need to learn
 - a) *I have a heart posture of a learner*
4. You have something to offer me
 - a) *This prophetic passage has something to offer me*
 - b) *This person has something to say that I need to hear*

F. James tells us to have humble soil that can easily receive the seed of the Word of God because He knows that the blessed life comes from receiving, hearing and doing the Word of God.

II. Be a hearer

James 1:22

- A. Greek for hearer = listen to in order to obey
- B. What do we say as parents if our child doesn't respond to our direction, "Oh, they must not have **heard** me."
- C. We may not hear to obey for many different reasons:
 1. There are moments of distraction, moments when you just need to hear the Father say that He loves you. James isn't addressing those moments.
 2. A Pharisaical interpretation of this passage would be perfection.
 3. Rather he's asking:
 - a) Are you submitted to the Lord?
 - b) When he speaks to you do you listen to obey?
 - c) When you get to that particular passage that makes you uncomfortable are you going to go on the journey to find out why and obey?
 - d) Are you willing to do what you don't feel called to, just because it's in the Word?
- D. When James talked about hearing... he expected that people were listening to the Word with a desire to obey and be ready to take action.
- E. Like a child listens to their parent or an employee to a boss
 1. Poised to take action on the words of Scripture

III. Be a doer

James 1:22-24

- A. Greek for doer = doer or maker

- B. *Those who fail to do the word, who merely listen to the word, are guilty of a dangerous and potentially fatal self-delusion. If the gospel, by nature, contains both saving power and summons to obedience, those who relate to only its saving side have not truly embraced the gospel. - Tyndale New Testament Commentary***
- C. James actually tells us what it means to be doer in this passage and others throughout his book: As Pastor Kent said last week James is a guide to the Christian life.
1. James 1:26-27: a submitted tongue, visiting orphans and widows, keeping oneself unstained from the world
 2. James 2:1-13: Showing no partiality
 3. James 2:14-26: Give to the poor the needs for their body
 4. James 3:1-12: Taming the tongue
 5. James 3:13-18: meekness in wisdom, don't be bitterly jealous or have selfish ambition
 6. James 4:11-12: Don't speak evil against a brother; knowing and doing the right thing
 7. James 5:7-12: Be patient in suffering; establish your hearts
- D. James sums it up this way in chapter 2: Faith without works is dead.
1. Just as much as you would consider something lifeless if you gave a command and it didn't move. When we hear the Word or claim we have faith (belief & trust in the way of God) but we don't respond with the appropriate works, **we are considered to be lacking a spiritual pulse.**
- E. James invites us to a spiritual life, by acting on our faith!
1. John the Baptist says it this way "Bear fruit in keeping with a repentance." (Matthew 3:8 ESV)
 2. In other words if you have been truly redeemed and if you really are a Kingdom Son or Daughter the works that come from your repentant and submitted heart should bear fruit for all to see.
- F. The mirror = forgetting what we look like
1. Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - a) The Word is a mirror. It's here to scan you and show you what you really look like... the true reality of who you are.
 - b) The job of the Word of God is not to make you feel good, but to show you where you are out of alignment with the Kingdom of God, His ways, and the truth of who you are in Him.
 - c) The wonderful truth is that the Word and the Spirit do this work in kindness. Although we may feel remorse, sadness, or regret- the Word does not condemn.
 - d) Instead it gives an invitational command into the fullness of life in Christ - the blessed life!

- e) The Holy Spirit through the Word gives us a look at ourselves in the spiritual mirror of truth and Kingdom ways.
- f) If we want to make an impact in our region, our nation and the world- we have to come into alignment with the Kingdom of God.
- g) **Our way will not produce the blessed life!**

G. Let's collectively together become a Kingdom people that receive, hear, and do the Word of God because that is what leads to the blessed life!

Conclusion:

James 1:25

James 1:2-4 (AMP)

Being a hearer and doer of the Word is not confirmation of our feelings or even what seems to be happening in the natural world. It is a supernatural and eternal transformative process that leads to blessing now, but most importantly in eternity!

The blessed life comes from receiving, hearing and doing the Word of God.

Let's take stock of our heart:

- Do I have receptive soil?
- Am I listening to obey the Word?
- When the Holy Spirit shows me something in the Word, do I take action?