

Blessed is the one who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.
James 1.12

This verse is our 'Call to Worship' during our study of James. Each week we read it together to begin our worship service. Why don't you try memorising it!

In your own words, make a definition of the important words you find in this verse:

Blessed -

Steadfast -


Trials and Tests -

Crown of Life -


Love -

Find 10 words from the memory verse above.

T	C	R	D	R	W	C	N	M	L	O	O	P	S	S
R	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	D	T	Y	E	R	O	T
I	X	V	O	N	M	E	E	W	D	K	L	E	H	E
A	S	T	T	W	A	S	D	F	G	H	L	C	E	A
L	R	T	R	E	N	W	D	T	E	S	T	E	V	D
S	N	M	K	L	O	O	D	F	T	T	Y	I	Y	F
S	F	G	O	D	G	H	F	J	K	L	M	V	C	A
P	O	I	U	Y	T	R	E	L	O	V	E	E	W	S
G	F	D	S	A	X	C	V	B	I	H	J	K	L	T
B	L	E	S	S	E	D	N	M	T	F	Y	U	I	P
L	I	R	W	E	D	V	B	S	W	F	E	O	N	E



Listen very carefully for 1 minute.
Make a list of **everything you hear**.



Which things should you pay attention to?

To what other things should you listen and pay attention?

James 1:19-27 underline the word hear/hearers circle doers

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; (20) for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. (21) Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (22) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. (24) For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. (25) But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (26) If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. (27) Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.



THE BIG IDEA

What do you think is the difference between 'hearing' and 'listening?'

What three things will you do this week to demonstrate that you have *listened* to the word of God?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

LISTEN



Be quick to listen,

Hearing is taking in sound

Listening involves understanding, processing and responding

Listening also involves tuning out noise and 'rubbish.'



slow to speak (and write, and text, and post...)

Slow to speak also includes being slow to state your own desires and designs



slow to become angry

Anger is a normal emotion. But emotions involve how we think about a situation and how we have listened. We must not be quick to react but make sure we have listened and respond well

➤ Things that keep us from listening

- ⊗ too much talking talking talking
- ⊗ anger
v20 'human anger does not produce the righteousness of God'
- ⊗ filthiness
- ⊗ wickedness
- ⊗ defiance, contention, indignation (*pride and offence*)



Let listening lead to doing

v22 'be doers of the word and not just hearers, deceiving yourselves.

How can we be deceived? If we fail to **do** in response to the word that we have heard, we think we have heard but haven't.

Doing shows that we have listened.



Stop speaking 'religious nonsense' but listen and do

Many phrases have become unhelpful with no meaning. They have no effect on behaviour – 'I'll pray for you' 'God has a plan' 'Let go and let God' 'Just have faith.'

The world needs to see people who live like Christians, not people who only talk like Christians but fail to live for Jesus.