

How To Quit Kidding Yourself – And Change  
James 1:19-27 (Part 1- Receive The Word)  
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**Introduction**

1. When James wrote this letter to Christians who were heavily persecuted and this caused all kinds of problems for them. James did not want them to compromise but to grow up as faithful children of God. He summarizes this section by saying “Be doers of God’s Word and not mere listeners”
2. However many were kidding themselves thinking they were saved when they were not (Matthew 7:21-23). When true believers come the Word of God they are honest realizing we have three responsibilities to the Word that will ensure our salvation...

**I. Receive The Word – James 1:19-21**

- a. What kind of soil is your heart?
  - i. Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23
  - ii. When we have a heart that receives the Word there will always be fruit!
- b. Swift To Hear (v19a)
  - i. The Word is more important than food and more precious than any amount of money. For we cannot live properly without it.
  - ii. Matthew 13:9; Romans 10:17
  - iii. 2 Samuel 23:14-17 notice how David’s men was quick to hear and quick to action
- c. Slow To Speak (v19b)
  - i. Since we have two ears and one mouth we ought to remember to listen more than we speak. Many worship services in James’ time would have people arguing over God’s word. The need to listen was and is still important.
  - ii. Proverbs 17:27
- d. Slow To Wrath (v19c)
  - i. Proverbs 14:29
  - ii. When Nathan told David about story of the stolen ewe lamb the king became angry at the wrong person for He was the one guilty (2 Samuel 12).
  - iii. In the garden Peter was slow to hear, quick to speak and quick to anger almost killing a man.
  - iv. Proverbs 14:17; Ecclesiastes 7:9; Romans 12:19; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:8; Ephesians 4:26; James 1:20; Hebrews 4:12
- e. A Prepared Heart (v21)
  - i. James sees our hearts like a garden that when left to itself will grow weeds. We are to pull out the weeds of sin and prepare our hearts for God’s Word (Jeremiah 4:3)!
  - ii. In order for the word to work in our hearts it must be implanted.
  - iii. The next responsibility will be to practice the Word!