

## Don't just be Hearers of the Word, Do What it Says - Zanga Schutte, July 13, 2025

**James 1:22 NIV** Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Notes: It is important to listen to what God's Word says, but it is much more important to obey it and *do* what it says. We can measure the effectiveness of our Bible study time by the effect it has on our behavior and attitudes.

**Listening but Doing Nothing James 1:23-24 NIV** <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror, <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

Notes: It's like whatever we were reading or listening to, goes into one ear and out the other. We don't retain what we are reading or listening to. We are anxious to get moving, our minds are racing on what needs to get done for the day. We allow the things at hand to distract us from the things of Christ. Our focus on Christ was lost before we even started.

**James 1:22-23** warns against deceiving oneself by only listening to the word without putting it into practice. [Inward change must affect outward conduct.]

**Putting Action-Doing it! - James 1:25 NIV** But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it---not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it---they will be blessed in what they do.

Notes: The Bible emphasizes the importance of hearing God's word, highlighting its power to produce faith and transform lives. It's presented as a source of guidance, wisdom, and spiritual growth, with a call to both listen attentively and act upon what is heard.

### **5 Points:**

**1. Faith Comes Through Hearing** **Romans 10:17 NKJV** states - So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Notes: This verse emphasizes that hearing the message of the Gospel, the word about Christ, is essential for developing faith. Hearing the word is a key aspect of understanding and accepting the truth about Jesus and salvation.

**2. Hearing and Acting:** It's not enough to simply hear the word; the Bible also stresses the importance of acting upon what is heard. **Luke 11:28 NIV** He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.

Notes: Hearing and acting on God's word are essential aspects of a Christian life, with faith being strengthened through obedience. It's not enough to simply hear the word; true faith is demonstrated through actively putting it into practice.

**3. Hearing and Understanding:** The parable of the sower in **Matthew 13:18-23** illustrates that the seed (word) that falls on good ground is the one that is heard and understood. This understanding leads to bearing fruit, signifying spiritual growth and a transformed life.

**4. Hearing God's Voice:** The Bible also speaks of hearing God's voice through His word, emphasizing that those who belong to God will recognize and respond to His voice. **John 10:27 NIV** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

**5. Hearing as a Gift and a Responsibility:** The Bible presents hearing the word as both a gift, something to be received with gratitude, and a responsibility, requiring attentiveness and obedience.

**Revelation 1:3 NIV** Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

**Notes: ‘The Time is Near,** John is urging his readers to be faithful and ready at all times for the Last Judgment and the establishment of God’s Kingdom on earth. We do not know when the events he describes will occur, so we must always be prepared. They will happen quickly, and people will have no second chance to change sides.

**Hebrews 2:1 NIV** We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

**Notes:** As believers, we are in danger of falling away from following Jesus. We hear the gospel, but it does not sink in. We hear the words and more or less agree, but intellectual consent to Christ’s leadership does not make us a disciple or follower of Christ. Let’s not surrender to casual belief. (Hearing what we want to hear and doing what we want to do.)

In summary, hearing the word of God is presented as foundational to our faith, spiritual growth, and a transformed life. It's not just about passively listening, but also about actively understanding and responding to what is heard.

In Closing: Let’s Remind Ourselves Daily what **James 1:22** says,  
**“Don’t just be hearers of the Word, Do what it Says....”      Amen & Amen**