



Doing The Work

September 12, 2021

Big Focus: Living a Consistent Life and Doing the Work

I. Three Ways To Approach The Work

1. Listen Without Being Angry

- James 1:19–27 (NKJV): 19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

2. Lay Aside Inconsistency

- 21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of 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.

3. Tell Yourself the Truth

- 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

II. The Benefits of Doing the Work

1. You will be blessed

- 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.
- 26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

2. You Will Make a Difference In the World

- 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

III. What Hinders The Benefits

1. Bad Behavior (Fights, quarrels among you, coveting, wrong motives, adultery, pride)

- James 4:1–17 (NIV): What causes **fights** and **quarrels** among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You **covet** but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives**, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.
- 4 You **adulterous** people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

- 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the **proud** but shows favor to the humble.”

2. Lack of Spiritual Investment (Submit, Wash, purify, and humble, and do not slander)

- 7 **Submit yourselves**, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands**, you sinners, and **purify your hearts**, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. **Change** your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 **Humble yourselves** before the Lord, and he will lift you up.
- 11 Brothers and sisters, **do not slander one another**. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

3. Boasting (You don’t know what will happen; life is a mist that vanishes)

- 13 Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” 14 Why, **you do not even know what will happen tomorrow**.
- **What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes**. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.

Closing Advice: 17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

Next Time: Have the Right Attitude While Doing The Work

Read Ahead: James 2 1-13, (NIV)