

The 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, July 17, 2016

“Faith That Works: The Letter of James ~

Fortifying Your Faith”

James 1:19-27

Listening is the only way we are going to be able to ‘successfully’ follow the \_\_\_\_\_ that God has provided for us.

James challenges us to take our faith in Jesus seriously enough that it changes our \_\_\_\_\_.

He challenges us to be willing to listen to what God is saying and then be willing to modify our behaviour to conform our \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

4 STRATEGIES FOR FORTIFYING OUR FAITH

#1. \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word.

“You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger...” (James 1:19)

James isn’t just talking about \_\_\_\_\_ hearing the words as they impact our ears, but also listening for what God has to \_\_\_\_\_ to us in those words.

‘Swift to listen’ = an \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ heart where we concentrate not only on what is being communicated, but also on the \_\_\_\_\_ of our heart in hearing it.

4 THINGS ABOUT HEARING

- **We need to be willing to stop and \_\_\_\_\_.**  
One of the things that keeps us from hearing is \_\_\_\_\_ too much.

“For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool’s voice is known by multitude of words.” (Ecclesiastes 5:3)

- **Our ability to hear has a direct effect on our \_\_\_\_\_.**  
“So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

In order to have faith, we need to be able to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s word.

“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.” (Revelation 2:7)

- **The \_\_\_\_\_ of what we listen to determines what we hear.**

Jesus makes it very clear that \_\_\_\_\_ is our source.

“Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.” (John 14:21)

- **How we hear the word says a lot about our \_\_\_\_\_ with God.**

“They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.” (1 John 4:5-6)

“My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me...I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.” (John 10:27; 16)

3 KINDS OF LISTENERS

- **Those who are \_\_\_\_\_ to hear.**

These listeners hear God’s word, but never give it a second \_\_\_\_\_. As a result, God’s word fails to have its full \_\_\_\_\_; their lives aren’t \_\_\_\_\_; and they fail to \_\_\_\_\_.

- **Those who are \_\_\_\_\_ in what they hear.**

They only hear what they \_\_\_\_\_ to hear—what tickles their ears or lines up with their way of \_\_\_\_\_. They treat God’s word like a \_\_\_\_\_ and pick and choose what they believe based on their own way of thinking; and what works \_\_\_\_\_ for them.

- **Those who are seeking God’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

They are awake, \_\_\_\_\_, and interested, they are \_\_\_\_\_ and totally \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

How quick are you to listen—how well do you hear?

#2. **Make \_\_\_\_\_ for God’s word.**

We need to remove those things that \_\_\_\_\_ God’s word in us.

“You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.” (James 1:19-21)

‘dechomai’ =

And has the connotation of showing \_\_\_\_\_.

James is urging us to cultivate a \_\_\_\_\_ and life that \_\_\_\_\_ the word of God.

A life that is characterized by an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_, openness, and \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2 QUALITIES TO HELP MAKE ROOM

### • A \_\_\_\_\_ demeanor.

“...let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness.”

This is anger that erupts when our \_\_\_\_\_ are bruised and when our \_\_\_\_\_ are not being heard. This kind of anger is \_\_\_\_\_ to the will and work of God.

“Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but one who has a hasty temper exalts folly.” (Proverbs 14:29)

### • A \_\_\_\_\_ life.

“...rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness.” ‘apotithemi’ =

“...let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.” (Hebrews 12:1)

### Are there things in your life that you need to get rid of?

### #3. \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s Word.

“But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.” (James 1:22-25)

Submission = to defer to the \_\_\_\_\_ or power of someone else, and is usually mandatory or \_\_\_\_\_.

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:22)

‘hupotasso’ = ‘hupo’ = \_\_\_\_\_ and ‘tasso’ = \_\_\_\_\_

The NT understanding of submission is a wonderful picture of what it means to arrange our lives under a \_\_\_\_\_ viewpoint rather than to live according to one’s old way of life based on a \_\_\_\_\_ viewpoint.

## SUBMITTING TO GOD’S WORD

### • \_\_\_\_\_ it.

“But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free.” James 1:25)  
‘parakupto’ =

We don’t merely glance at God’s word but that we \_\_\_\_\_ at it.

“I will study your commandments, and fix my eyes on your ways.” (Psalm 119:15)

### • \_\_\_\_\_ it.

God’s word has the power to set us free from \_\_\_\_\_. It can be our \_\_\_\_\_ and our defence against the enemy. However, we can only use it, if we \_\_\_\_\_ it.

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:11)

### • \_\_\_\_\_ to it.

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (James 1:22)

We will be \_\_\_\_\_, not by simply hearing the word but by doing it.

### Who or what has the final authority in you life? Have you submitted to God’s word?

### #4. \_\_\_\_\_ by God’s word.

“If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.” (James 1:25-27)

God’s word isn’t only food for our soul, it’s also a \_\_\_\_\_ for living.

Sometimes there can be a \_\_\_\_\_ between what we say we believe and how we \_\_\_\_\_.

## 3 WAYS TO HELP LIVE THE WORD

### • Guard our \_\_\_\_\_.

### • \_\_\_\_\_ to others.

### • \_\_\_\_\_ our life.

“Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” (Philippians 1:27)

### How well are you living out God’s word in your everyday life?