The 9th 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 want 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.”

"...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 ___________ 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 defense 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 we will be ___________, not by simply hearing the word but by doing it.

Who or what has the final authority in your life?

Who 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?