

# Living by the Book

*James 1:19-25*

## I. Admire the Word (vv. 19-20)

### A. Be prayerful (vv. 2-18)

### B. Be teachable (v. 19a)

**Ramey** "...perhaps the preaching is good, but you are the problem. You are burned out on listening. It seems like all you do is listen, while experiencing little growth and change in your life. Week after week, good sermons go in one ear and out the other without ever penetrating your mind or piercing your heart and transforming your life. Perhaps you have the discernment and the desire to obey, but you're listening to and watching so much during the week that's not important or entirely accurate that you've trained yourself to only half listen, a habit you can't seem to "turn off" on Sunday mornings. All these hearing problems are the result of never being trained to properly appreciate and practically appropriate God's Word." (Ken Ramey, *Expository Listening*, 10).

### C. Be attentive (v. 19b)

### D. Be calm (v.19c-20)

## II. Accept the Word (v. 21, 25)

### A. Put the sin away (v. 21a)

### B. Fight the pride (v. 21b)

**George Whitfield:** "Come to hear them, not out of curiosity, but from a sincere desire to know and do your duty. To enter His house merely to have our ears entertained, and not our hearts reformed, must certainly be highly displeasing to the Most High God, as well as unprofitable to ourselves."

### **C. Taste the Word** (v. 21c)

“When you see the sun, you know it’s bright. When you taste honey, you know it’s sweet. When you see Jesus Christ in Scripture, you know he is Lord. And when you put God’s word into practice, you know it’s for real.” (Barry Cooper, *Can I really trust the Bible?* 80).

### **D. Study the Word** (v. 25)

## **III. Apply the Word** (vv. 22-25)

### **A. Don’t deceive yourself** (v. 22)

### **B. Memorize the Word** (vv. 22-24)

### **C. Put to practice the Word** (vv. 22-25)

#### **Practical steps to take:**

- 1) Read the Word on a daily basis. This will develop in you a healthy appetite for God’s Word. (no eating disorders...)
- 2) Pray for yourself. Pray that God would make your heart soft and receptive to His Word, that you would delight in the truth.
- 3) Confess your sin. Act upon what you already have been entrusted.
- 4) Come to Scripture with the anticipation that God will speak to you.
- 5) Fight off all distractions: no talking, texting, internet browsing.
- 6) Ask questions:
  - a. What did I learn?
  - b. Where do I fall short?
  - c. What do I need to do about it?
  - d. How can I make this a consistent part of my life?