



Adulting

Accept

Snooze

Expositional study on the book of James.

*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

INTRODUCTION

09/24/2017

James begins this section with an emphasis on “the word of truth”. This truth, he claims, is the guide for the Christian life and has God as its source. As such, it has authority for the Christian. This week consider the ramifications of this claim.

QUESTIONS

1. In three or four sentences, how would you summarize the main point of John’s message?
2. Was there something in the message that was particularly challenging? Or surprising?
3. Re-read James 1:18-27. What speaks to you most out of this passage? What questions does it leave you with?
4. Verse 18 begins with a reference to “birth”, which has become known as a second birth or being born again. What does James mean by a new birth? What does it look like? (consider 2 Corinthians 5:17; cf. John 3:1-10)
5. James states that this new life or new birth comes by the “word of truth”. What practical outcomes of this teaching come out in the following verses?
6. Why is humility necessary in hearing and obeying God’s word (James 1:21)?

7. In verse 22, two reactions to scripture are depicted—hearers and doers. What are the differences between these two actions? What practical implications does this have on the Christian life?
8. Verse 27 attempts a brief synopsis of what “doing” scripture looks like. The first two charges seem self-explanatory—to care for orphans and widows. But what does James mean by “keep oneself from being polluted by the world”? (Romans 12:2)
9. John mentioned the “cafeteria god”. What imagery does this create in your mind? How have you seen this at play in your understanding of God?

How have you seen this same principle at play when reading or applying the Bible?

10. If life and faithfulness come through the “word of truth”, how then should we engage the Bible?
11. What things have you read in the Bible or heard through messages at Church that you have been reluctant to “do”? Why?
12. How does your reluctance or refusal to “do” certain things in scripture impact your relationship with God, your endurance in the faith, or your maturity? (Consider John 14:23-26)
13. Reflect on your life and habits. Do your actions show that you are committed to following Jesus, both in faith and in obedience? Is there an area where you would like to see progress?

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Jesus, in this week’s passage I am reminded of your grace that gives new life. That this new life brings me into contact with your truth, which you gave as a guide for healing, rich relationships, and spiritual maturity. You challenge me to humbly accept this word and allow its meaning to influence my words, thoughts, and actions. May you grant me the humility and honesty to accept this word. To see it produce good fruit and actions in my life. Help me to put into action all of scripture that my life might be under your authority. In Jesus name, amen.