

PRESSURE POINTS: How to Effectively Receive God's Word

Andy Deane · 9/8/2024 · James 1:19-27

Matthew 13:18-23, 18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. 23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

James probably had that parable of Jesus in mind as he wrote about the seed of God's Word here.

James 1:19-27, 19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. 26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

For God's Word to be effective we must be:

1. Eager: *be quick to listen*
2. Patient: *slow to speak and slow to become angry*
3. Repentant: *get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent*
4. Humble: *humbly accept the word planted in you*
5. Expectant: *which can save you*
6. Obedient: *Do not merely listen...Do what it says.*
7. Diligent: *whoever looks intently into the perfect law*
8. Circumspect: *consider themselves religious & yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves*
9. Charitable: *Religion that God...accepts as pure...is this to look after orphans & widows in their distress*
10. Pure: *to keep oneself from being polluted by the world*

Practical Applications:

- Text "cares" to (951)425-4425 to join the Cornerstone Cares team and learn about opportunities to offer practical help to orphans, widows, foster families, single moms, persons with disabilities and the elderly.
- Join us on 10/12 at the Sound of Hope movie night & visit all the non-profit tables that support foster families.
- Join the Explore the Bible class (every Sunday at 10:30am in the MPR on the 3rd floor).
- Join a sermon-based Life Group to continue the discussion beyond Sundays.
- Follow along with the Cornerstone Bible reading plan on the Youversion app.
- Start a year long Discipleship Group with others who are ready to go deeper together in the Word.