

Avoiding Self-Deception

James 1:19-27

Though most often it is probably not intentional or conscious, we all deceive ourselves at times. It is simply part of the fall. And while this is true, we are still responsible to avoid it when we recognize it. Jesus taught that the truth would set us free (John 8:32). In our passage today, James wants to help us see the truth regarding self-deception in several areas of life: anger, God's Word, and in terms of what constitutes God-honoring religion. If we will hear and respond to the truth that James presents here, we can walk in the beautiful and satisfying freedom that Jesus came to offer.

Read James 1:19-27

1. How would you summarize what James is saying in verse 19?
2. How can failure to do what James teaches in this verse create problems?
3. What is the "anger of man" (v. 20)? Why does the anger of man not achieve the righteousness of God?
4. James 1:22 is a key verse in all of James. How would you rephrase it in your own words?
5. What does James say is the pathway to being blessed?

6. What is the proof of true religion (vv. 26-27)?

7. How would you counsel a fellow believer who feels overwhelmed by what they read in the verses we've looked at today?

Steve said:

How do we avoid being "hearers only" in relation to THIS passage? One of the strategic things we can do to avoid self-deception is to engage this passage prayerfully. If you've heard what God says in this passage, it's now your turn to respond to Him. You are honest with Him about what excites you and what scares you about what He's said. You ask God to give you clarity about what He wants YOU to be a doer of the Word. You ask for the will and the power to obey.

8. How do you need to respond to this passage in order to be a doer of the word?



Freedom from Strongholds: In light of James' admonition to put aside all filthiness and wickedness, take some time this week to invite the Spirit of God to reveal any sin in your life. Confess it to God (1 John 1:9) and ask Him to strengthen you to be a doer of the Word in this area.



Daily Devotion: As you spend daily time in God's Word this week, seeking to not just be a hearer, but a doer, be careful to not walk away from your time in the Word without considering if there is something that you are to do.