

RESET

AN INVITATION TO BEGIN 2026 GOD'S WAY

Doers, Not Just Hearers James 1:19-27

Big Idea: A new year doesn't change you – doing God's Word does.

- I. Reset How You Receive the Word – Slow Down and Listen (James 1:19-20)
The heart can't reset when it's defensive, distracted, or offended
- II. Reset What You Remove – Make Room for the Word (James 1:21)
A reset requires subtraction before it requires addition
- III. Reset How You Respond – Don't Just Hear It, Do It (James 1:22)
Faith becomes real when it moves from intention to action
- IV. Reset What You Reflect – The Mirror Moment (James 1:23-24)
God's word shows us who we are, so we can become who we're called to be
- V. Reset What You Practice – Freedom Follows the Doer (James 1:25)
The deepest reset happens when faith becomes lifestyle
- VI. Reset the Evidence – Faith Is Proven by a Changed Life (James 1:26-27)

Study Questions

- [1] Read James 1:19-20. What distractions, emotions, or habits most often keep you from truly receiving God's Word with humility and attention? How can you practically slow your pace to listen first?
- [2] Read James 1:21. This verse teaches that a reset requires removal before addition. What is one thing God is calling you to "put away" in this season to make room for deeper obedience?
- [3] Read James 1:22-25. Where in your life are you most tempted to agree with Scripture in theory but delay obedience in practice?
- [4] Application: What is one concrete step you can take this week to be a "doer" not just a hearer?

[James 1:19-20] Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, [Ecclesiastes 5:1-2] slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

[Ecclesiastes 5:1-2] Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. ² Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.

[James 1:21] Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness [Colossians 3:8] and receive with meekness the implanted word, [James 3:13] which is able to save your souls. [1 Corinthians 15:2, Ephesians 1:13]

[Ephesians 1:13-14] In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

[James 1:22] But be doers of the word, [Romans 2:13, James 2:14-20, Matthew 7:21, 7:24-7:27, Luke 8:21, John 13:17] and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

[Romans 2:13] For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.

[James 1:23-24] For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

[James 1:25] But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, [James 2:12, Galatians 2:4, 5:1, 5:13, 1 Peter 2:16, 2 Peter 2:19, John 8:32] and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. [Psalm 1:1-2, Luke 11:28]

The "law of liberty" is God's law as interpreted and fulfilled by Jesus, especially summed up in love of neighbor. It liberates because it aligns believers with God's design rather than condemning them. [Douglas Moo - NICNT]

[James 1:26-27] If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, [James 3:2-3, Psalm 39:1, James 3:6, Psalm 34:13, Psalm 141:3] this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, [Matthew 25:36] and to keep oneself [1 Timothy 5:22, 1 John 5:18] unstained from the world. [2 Peter 3:14]