

# The Difference God's Word Makes

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Jonathan Rue

James 1:19-27

04.26.09

'What Difference Does God Make?' Series

Well, last week we started a new series here in Joshua House, called "What Difference Does God Make?"

## **SLIDE: Series Graphic**

And so we're going through the book of James to see what kind of practical difference God makes in our real life, not just in our beliefs. See this question isn't meant to be an irreverent one, it's meant to be a legitimate question that we ask. If I put my faith and my trust in God, it is fair to ask the question of what difference will that make in my life? The common assumption of people that put there faith in God is that it will make a difference in life. That's what we're signing up for when we say, "I believe in God and I give my life to Christ", we're signing up to have God change our lives and really make a difference in who we are. But for so many of us, this is a slow process and this is a process that can get short circuited when we don't allow God to fully take hold of every area in our hearts, in our habits, in our lives.

See if you were not raised in the church, if you were not raised with a relationship with God and you came to Christ later in life, or maybe if you're still considering turning your life over to Jesus and beginning a relationship with God, you know what life is like without God and without God's help. If you're in that kind of a place, before knowing God, you know that there are so many forces pushing on your life, there are so many influences pulling on your life that are telling you who you should be, what you should do, and what your life should look like.

Most of us don't come out of the womb at birth, knowing our core identity, knowing who we are at bottom, knowing what we're about, and knowing how we want to live our lives, knowing what is most important in life. No, these are things that we pick up along the way, things that we struggle through life and begin to get a hold on as we go down many wrong paths and decide, "Nope, that's not for me." And without a relationship with God, we don't have a compass showing us true north. We are grasping at anything we can get. We're having our concept of ourselves, of who we are shaped by our favorite musicians, and songs, and movie stars, and friends. We're looking for advice on how we live our lives in magazines. And from day time television shows, like Oprah and Ellen. The way

navigation works, if you know which way is north, you know everything. You need one fixed point of direction to orient you to every other direction. But without that fixed point, everything looks the same.

I'm sure many of you have used the ingenious new service called, ChaCha. The way ChaCha works is you text any question in the world, any question that you might have, you text to ChaCha, the number is 242242, and within a couple minutes, you will get a text message answer to your question for free. So this is pretty convenient when you're arguing with your friends over what breed of dog the Obamas have or what is the average weight of an American adult. The answer to that, by the way, is 180 pounds. So people are using this service to ask all kinds of questions. You can go on the ChaCha website and see all of the text message questions that people have sent and the responses. And so people are asking all kinds of crazy questions like,

- "If fruits and vegetables got into a fight, who would win?" And the answer is, "vegetables would win in a battle against fruits. No one likes vegetables and that makes them angry."

Or questions like,

- "What is dumb law?" Answer: "In Massachusetts, snoring is prohibited unless all bedroom windows are closed and securely locked."

Or the question,

- "Why do we hiccup?" Answer: "The reason we hiccup is unknown. The phenomenon is nearly universal and it can even be observed in a fetus."

But they're not just silly questions that are getting asked. People are asking serious, deep questions. Someone asked, "Who will I marry?" And the answer was, "you will marry the person that is made for you, who you are in love with, perhaps Justin."

People are asking,

- "What should I do with my life?"
- "Is there a God?"
- "Should I kill myself?"
- "What is the meaning of life?" One of the responses to this question was, "that's pretty deep for a text message," which made me pretty happy to know that they weren't going to try to tackle the deepest philosophical, theological questions in a text message.

But people are searching; people are going through life trying to figure out what life is all about and how we should be living. And so people experiment and try out different kinds of things to see if it'll make a difference in their life.

So you try changing your diet, you try changing your exercise habits, you change the clothes that you wear, you change your friends, you change your job, you change your majors, you change your relationship. We're all testing things out, we're experimenting with things. We're trying to figure out how do I want to live life? What do I want to do with my one shot at life? Who do I want to become? And this can create a lot of anxiety in our lives because of the sheer amount of voices speaking to us and influences coming at us. And opportunities open before us.

The great news for Christians is that when we put our faith in God, we no longer have to ask random strangers through text message about what our lives are about. We don't have to take Oprah's word for it, or read an opinion poll about what's hot right now. God has given us a compass by which we can navigate life. When we are caught in a storm totally disoriented, we don't have to rely just in our internal sense of direction, we don't have to rely on other's great ideas of which way true north is. God has given us a compass in the word of God, the Bible, which is the fixed point that we need to know every other direction.

God speaks to us through his word, and we are able to access what God thinks about how we should live our lives, what God thinks about who we are as people and what God thinks about our futures and the purpose of our lives. So tonight we're going to see the difference that God's word makes in our lives.

**SLIDE:**  
**The Difference God's Word Makes**

God has not left us to fend for ourselves, to figure everything out on our own, or to be at the mercy of the ChaCha writer to answer our deepest questions. God has given us the Bible, he's given us his word and he speaks to us through it. And so tonight, we're going to see how we can begin to have our lives shaped by the scriptures. To not just read it for information, but read it for life change. I've called tonight's talk, The Difference God's Word Makes. Let's pray.

**TITLE SLIDE:**  
**The Difference God's Word Makes**  
**Jonathan Rue**  
**James 1:19-27**  
**04.26.09**  
**'What Difference Does God Make?' Series**

We are still in chapter 1 in the book of James, and we're going to pick up the text in verse 19.

**SLIDE:**  
**James 1:19-27 (TNIV)**

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 our 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 Those who listen to the word but do not do what it says are like people who look at their faces in a mirror 24 and, after looking at themselves, go away and immediately forget what they look like. 25 But those who look intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continue 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.

So, there is a progression in this text that James is outlining about how God's word makes a difference in your life. And the first movement comes in the hearing of God's word.

**SLIDE:**  
**Hearing God's Word**

That there is no way to access the truth of God's word unless we hear it, unless we read it. So James says in verse 19.

**SLIDE:**  
**James 1:19-21 (TNIV)**  
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 our anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Now, James is meaning that we should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry, both in terms of our relationships with one another and in our relationship to God, in being quick to listen to the word of God. But, this phrase, this concept, James did not come up with. There are many passages in the Old Testament and the New Testament that talk about being quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. Proverbs 29:20 says:

**SLIDE:**  
**Proverbs 29:20 (TNIV)**  
Do you see someone who speaks in haste?

There is more hope for a fool than for them.

And we see Ecclesiastes 7:9 says:

**SLIDE:**

**Ecclesiastes 7:9 (TNIV)**

Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit,  
for anger resides in the lap of fools.

And Ecclesiastes 5:2 says:

**SLIDE:**

**Ecclesiastes 5:2 (TNIV)**

Do not be quick with your mouth,  
do not be hasty in your heart  
to utter anything before God.  
God is in heaven  
and you are on earth,  
so let your words be few.

And beyond this there are many Rabbis that had similar statements that disciples of Rabbis ought to be quick to listen and slow to speak. So this is not only a way of talking about the way that we should be listening to God before speaking, but it's also just a great model for how to live your life—those three things in verse 19.

**SLIDE:**

**James 1:19-21 (TNIV)**

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because our anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to become angry. These three things should mark the life of a Christian. That in our relationships with one another and in the way that we relate to people in our everyday lives, to people at the grocery store, at your work, in traffic, at school. We ought to be quick to listen to people, to really hear somebody out. There's nothing more frustrating than talking to a person who only wants to talk, who never stops for a moment to hear your side of the story, to take any interest in you. Have you ever had a friend like this? Have you ever had a friendship that was totally one-sided, that the friend just loved to talk all about themselves, and anytime that you would mention something about your life, they would find a way to immediately bring it right back around to their experience and their life and their problems? It's incredibly frustrating to be around somebody that is slow to listen, but quick to speak.

But, the flip side of that is that it's wonderful to be around somebody that loves to hear about you, that loves to hear about your life, what you're going through, can sympathize with you and really seeks to understand you. And so much conflict comes in our relationships with one another and our relationships with people we work with comes from being too quick to speak and too slow to listen. When we don't take time to really hear somebody, when we don't take time to walk in their shoes, to find out where they are coming from, what they are experiencing, we can be so quick to assume that we know what somebody else is going through without taking the time to really hear them out. And when I feel like someone is doing that with me, that I'm not being heard, that I'm not being understood, well, then, there is such a temptation to flash to anger. It can really make you mad to feel like somebody assumes that they know what you're going through, what your experience is and what you're trying to say when you don't have the opportunity to be heard. And James is telling us in verse 20 that our anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. So, we want to be slow to anger, we don't want to be people that flash into anger over any small little thing.

Now there are certain things that we can have anger over, that Jesus had anger over. When there is injustice that is being done, and people are abusing God. Jesus got angry in the temple because the Jews had turned the temple courts into a money changing area. So they are turning the sacred place of God into a way to make money. And Jesus got angry over that. There is such a thing as righteous anger, but righteous anger finds its expression only when we trust that God really is in control and it's his job to bring judgment to injustice and to set the world right again. God uses us sometimes to do that, but any time we cross over in our anger into wanting ourselves to bring retribution and to bring judgment, we're crossing over into unrighteous anger. And as followers of Jesus, our lives should not be marked by anger.

A few years ago, I was working construction. I was doing rough framing on a log cabin up in the mountains of California, and I worked with a bunch of guys that were some rough characters. They were good guys, I enjoyed working with them, I had good friendships with them. But, there is something about working construction that gives full license to be as angry as you want to be all the time. There's no filter on your anger. It's encouraged for you to give full vent and full expression to your anger. So guys would constantly yell and scream and throw things and shoot the nail gun at things. There were many times when a 2x4 or a brick or some tool came dangerously close to my head as it threw through the air because somebody was angry. And what James is saying is our lives as Christians should not be marked by anger. That we're not people that are quick to anger. The Bible talks about this concept of quickness and slowness.

Now when we come to Jesus and receive forgiveness for our sins and commit our lives to follow him and to obey his teachings, what Jesus does is forgive us of our sins and lead us forward into obedience and righteousness. But he doesn't demand that we're perfect. He does not demand that you will never sin again or

that you will never be angry unrighteously again, or I will cut you off. That is not what Jesus says. What the Bible says is be SLOW to sin and be SLOW to anger. In Proverbs 6, the scriptures say this:

**SLIDE:**

**Proverbs 6:16-19 (TNIV)**

There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, **feet that are quick to rush into evil**, 19 a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up dissension in the community.

Feet that are quick to rush into evil. I've often thought about this passage in my life and prayed, "God make me a man that does not have feet that are quick to rush into evil." May I not be a person that runs into evil, that if I sin, if I fall, that it will only be after a fight, after a struggle, after a battle of my will, that I'm not sitting on the fence line of sin, waiting for the wind to kind of blow me over into it, but I've built up a wall that I would have to climb over the top of to get into sin. So, James tells us be quick to listen, both quick to listen to other people, but the context of this verse is really quick to listen to God's word. That for us to actually change, for our relationship with God to be more than just belief, to be translated into life change, we have got to hear God's word speak to us. And the second thing that needs to happen is that we have to accept God's word.

**SLIDE:**

**Accepting God's Word**

Because we could hear God's word all the time all the time. You could be raised in church, heard a thousand sermons, you could've read your Bible your whole life, but you never accepted God's word into your life in a way that it took hold. Similar to a transplant of an organ. In medical science, if you have heart failure so and you're waiting on the list for a heart transplant and one opens up and you're a match for it, you get the heart. They place it into your body. They hook you up but that's only half the battle. Then they've got to see if your body will accept this new heart. They have to see if your body is going to accept it or reject it. And God's word is the same. You can hear it, it can come into you through your eyes and your ears, and you could have knowledge formed about God's word. But, your body has to accept it. Your spirit has to accept it. And so we see in verse 21:

**SLIDE:**

**James 1:21 (TNIV)**

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.

James says humbly accept the word planted in you which can save you.

And there is nothing that stop God's word from taking hold of your life like moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent all around you. You can hear God's word preached you can read God's Word every day, but if you are also filling your life with movies that glorify violence, that fill your mind with lustful thoughts, if you trying to stop drinking but you still hang with your buddies at the bar, then the chances are that God's Word is not going to take hold in your life. You've got to make a total break with the filth that is polluting your life. James says: **get rid of all** moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent. Get rid of all of it. Don't keep just a bit of it, because you know that you can handle it. Get rid of all of it.

And so the first step in accepting God's word in your life, is to get rid of all moral filth. In order to say yes to God, you've got to be willing to say no to sin. And the second step in accepting God's Word into you life is to allow it to have *authority* to speak to your life. You can think that the Bible is a good book, a holy book, and a moral book, but the big question is does God's Word have authority in your life. Because if we think that God's word is just some moral principles and some good thoughts on how we should live life, then basically we could take it or leave it, no big deal. We can receive it when it's convenient for us, when it matches up with our lives. But, if it isn't than we can let it be. But for us to accept God's word, to receive it with authority means that it has the power to speak into our lives, the power to lay down boundaries for us, within which we live, the power to speak life about who we really are as children of God. It has the power of the living and active voice of God speaking through the words of text. If you are struggling with how a book thousands of years old can function as authoritative in life today, I would point you to a great article written by one of the leading New Testament scholars in the world, N.T. Wright, called "*How Can the Bible Be Authoritative?*" You can download the article on our website at [www.joshuahouse.org](http://www.joshuahouse.org), under resources>spiritual growth resources.

And so James says that accepting God's word can actually save us. He's not only talking about salvation. It can also save us from so much pain and hardship in life. It can save us from the chaos of life, of all of the mixed messages and signals from the media, from our friends, from our culture, from everybody telling us a million different things about how to live our lives, who we are, what our identity is.

The Bible cuts through that and the voice of God speaks life, speaks truth and speaks meaning into us. That your life has purpose. That you are created by God. That you are loved by God. That you are not an accident. That God knew exactly what He was doing when he created you. And he has given you giftings and talents and he is going to use your life experiences thus far, even the bad ones, even the places of pain, even the places where you have screwed up and messed your life up. God is still going to redeem that and use it to help other people. This is the truth of God's word. That when we begin to accept that we are loved by God, that we are gifted by God and that God desires to use us for

his purposes in the world. When we begin to accept that at bottom, in our core, when we begin to lay hold of this truth, it changes everything in life. We cease striving. We cease having to feel like we have to perform and make ourselves worthy of God, and it opens up the door of freedom. That we really can be who we are, who God has made us to be. Not who we are in our brokenness and our sin, but who we are in who God has made us to be. The intention of God over our lives. There's so much freedom in humbly accepting that I'm loved by God.

So the second movement is accepting God's word in our lives. It's going to allow God's word to make a difference in our life. And the third movement is moving into obeying God's word.

**SLIDE:**  
**Obeying God's Word**

This is where the rubber meets the road and our actual lifestyle, our behaviors, our habits, begin to be reshaped in alignment with God's word. And so we see in verse 22, James says:

**SLIDE:**  
**James 1:22 (TNIV)**  
Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.**

Do what the word of God says. There is simply no way around this. There is no way for God to make a difference in your life, if you do not allow him access into your actions, into your behaviors, where you begin to do what God says. If you don't do what God's word says, James says that you actually are deceiving yourselves. And he gives an example of what this is like, of what I would call the bondage of self-deception. And the first way that we are bound by self-deception is that we are listening to God's word without doing anything.

**SLIDE:**  
**The bondage of self-deception:**

**Listening without doing**

And so James says in verse 23:

**SLIDE:**  
**James 1:23-25 (TNIV)**  
Those who listen to the word but do not do what it says are like people who look at their faces in a mirror 24 and, after looking at themselves, go away and immediately forget what they look like. 25 But those who look intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continue in it—not

forgetting what they have heard but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

So he uses the illustration that the word of God is similar to a mirror. That when you look at God's word, when you look deeply and intently into the word of God, you see who you are so much more clearly. The Bible is not a book about somebody else, about other people, it's a book about you. Now it certainly is a historical book, of course. It does contain stories about other people, but it contains the revelation and the truth of God about you. It shows you who you are. However, as many psychiatrists say, "insight does not bring change". It is totally possible to look into God's word and to gain insight into who you are, to see who you are, but then *not do anything* about it. And so James is saying if you do this, it's like looking at yourself in a mirror and walking away and totally forgetting what you look like.

But, he says those who look intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continue in it, not forgetting what they've heard but doing it, they will be blessed in what they do. So there are 2 big benefits here:

First, there is such great freedom in obeying God. This may sound counter intuitive, but there is much greater freedom under the rule of God's law than in the chaos of self rule. Now often when we think of laws, laws mean *rules that keep us from doing what we want to do and rules that make us do what we do not want to do*. That's kind of the definition of a law. So I don't want to stop at a stop sign. I want to roll through it, but the law tells me I have to stop at a stop sign. Even if I can see clearly all four sides of the street, there's nobody coming. I still have to stop even though I don't want to. Laws make me pay taxes. They make me give money to the government even though I don't want to. But because of these laws, I have the freedom to drive where I want to on paved roads without getting into a car accident. I have the freedom to go to a public park and enjoy the sunshine.

Second, there is such great blessing that comes into our lives when we live out what James calls the freedom of God's perfect law. When we continue in it. This is not a once and you're done kind of a thing. It is a repeated, continuous action of living out the freedom of God's perfect law.

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the law. He's what makes the law perfect. And he's what brings freedom to the law. Because God tells us in his word that the Old Testament law was given as a teacher to help people recognize good from bad. And when Jesus came, he didn't abolish the law, he fulfilled it and now the way that we live out the perfect law of God is in the freedom of capturing God's heart in relationship with Christ. Because God doesn't want to lead us by rules and regulations. He wants to lead us by having our heart captivated in love with him. And our desires reshaped to be in alignment with his desires and his truth. And when this happens, it unlocks God's blessing in our lives. Now James is not

making this up out of thin air, but he is restating the words of Jesus. His closing words on the great Sermon on the Mount, the most famous sermon Jesus ever preached, he closes it by saying this in Matthew 7:24:

**SLIDE:**

**Matthew 7:24-27 (TNIV)**

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

So Jesus and James are both saying it does not make sense to just hear the words of God and do nothing about them in your life. It's only in putting them into practice that you're building on something solid, something that will last. And so the bondage of self-deception begins when you're listening without doing and continues when you say whatever you want.

**SLIDE:**

**The bondage of self-deception:**

**Listening without doing**

**Saying whatever you want**

Verse 26.

**SLIDE:**

**James 1:26 (TNIV)**

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

So we deceive ourselves when we don't practice what the Bible tells us to and we deceive ourselves if we do practice what the Bible tells us to in all ways except our tongue. When we just say whatever is on our minds. We say whatever we want. Often times, you know, people add the justification of, “hey, I'm just honest. I'm just telling the truth. This is just what I think.” And then they begin to shred somebody and speak evil of somebody. James is going to go into great detail in chapter 3 on the power of the spoken word and the great responsibility of our tongues. But here he's just making a quick statement that we are living in self-deception if we think we can say whatever we want, whatever comes into our mind at any time we want and think that we are still practicing true religion.

The word religion is hardly ever used in the Bible. This is actually the only place where it's used as a noun. It is used as an adjective in several places-religious. And it means simply, the practices of a faith. It could be used in either a positive or a negative sense in the scriptures. And James here is saying that your religion, your faith, is worthless if you run your mouth and say whatever you want, that our tongues need to come into conformity with Christ, just as much as our bodies do, as our sexual organs do. And so James moves from talking about the bondage of self-deception into talking about the freedom of obedience. And the first way we step into the freedom of obedience is through showing compassion for those in need.

**SLIDE:**

**The freedom of obedience:**

**Showing compassion for those in need**

We see this in verse 27.

**SLIDE:**

**James 1:27 (TNIV)**

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.

So the first way where we can live out this freedom of God's perfect law and put it into practice is by showing compassion for those in need. To look after orphans and widows in their distress. Notice that James does not say "religion that God our father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to think it's a *good idea* to look after orphans and widows in their distress." He doesn't say we need to agree with the fact that orphans and widows in their distress ought to be taken care of. He says to look after orphans and widows in their distress. The action of compassionately caring for those in need. That's the first part of this freedom of obedience. When we allow God's word to shape who we are, we will get involved in caring for those in need. It's impossible to be living out truth of scripture in our lives and to never reach out with our hands to help people around us. And the second way where we step into the freedom of obedience is by keeping morally pure in our lives.

**SLIDE:**

**The freedom of obedience:**

**Showing compassion for those in need**

**Keeping morally pure in life**

We see this again in verse 27.

**SLIDE:**

**James 1:27 (TNIV)**

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.**

So it's not enough to just do good deeds. It's not enough to just show compassion and to rack up a huge list of all the people that you've helped in your life if your personal life, your personal morality is shredded. If you go home at night and your life is filled with violence and addiction and sexual lust, it's not enough that you volunteer and feed the homeless and care for widows and orphans. God wants both. He wants us both to be practicing outward deeds of justice and compassion and he wants us to be practicing internal purity and caring about the state of our heart and the decisions of our will and the thoughts of our mind. Keep yourself from being polluted by the world. There is so much filth and junk that just washed over us in our lives that we can begin to be covered in this thin veneer of soot.

It's like being, when I lived in Los Angeles, there is a cloud of smog over the LA basin, and while you're in LA, you get used to it, you're just living in it. But when you go out over the mountain range and then you come back from another place and you cross over the mountains, as soon as you're coming down into the valley floor, you are struck by this brownish, yellowish cloud of filth that is sitting over the whole basin of LA as far as the eye can see. It's disgusting, yet you get used to it when you live there. Well, our world, our culture is full of pollution. It's full of immoral influences and images and ideas that we do need to work hard to keep ourselves from being polluted by. Now many Christians have taken this to an extreme where we totally remove ourselves from the world all together, and we hive off a community where we never interact at all with the pollutant of the world. Well that doesn't match the model of Jesus at all. The New Testament does not call us to totally remove ourselves from the world, but to keep ourselves from being polluted by the world. We are to live in the world and be a positive, shaping influence on other people.

But, we always run the risk of having them influence us. And this is why we desperately need God's word: to help anchor us, to bring us back every day to who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do. Without the anchor of God's word, we would be swept away slowly but surely by the rising tide of our culture. But praise be to God that he has given us such a rich gift of his word. That we don't take for granted, that we don't let gather dust on our bookshelf, but that we are bringing our lives underneath so that we would be shaped by God's word and allowing God to not only speak to us, but to receive that word and begin to walk out a life of obedience where we are stepping into the freedom of obeying God: stepping out of the self-deception of only listening but never doing

anything about it, and stepping into the freedom of obeying God through practicing his word to other people around you.

# **The Difference God's Word Makes**

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Jonathan Rue

James 1:19-27

04.26.09

'What Difference Does God Make?' Series

## **The Difference God's Word Makes**

**Hearing God's Word (v. 19)**

**Accepting God's Word (v. 21)**

**Obeying God's Word (v. 22)**

The **bondage** of self-deception:

Listening **without doing** (v. 22-24)

Saying **whatever you want** (v. 26)

The **freedom** of obedience:

Showing **compassion** for those in need (v. 27)

Keeping **morally pure** in life (v. 27)