



Living as a 'Doer' of the Word

James 1:19-27
(Matthew 7:21-27)

²¹ “Not everyone who **SAYS** to me, ‘**Lord, Lord,**’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but the one who **DOES** the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day *many will say* to me, ‘Lord, Lord, *did we not prophesy* in your name, & *cast out demons* in your name, & *do many mighty works* in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never **KNEW** (*experiential knowledge*) you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’ ²⁴ “Everyone then who **HEARS** these words of mine and **DOES** them will be like a **WISE** man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who **HEARS** these words of mine and **does NOT do** them will be like a **foolish** (*μωρός*) man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Matthew 7:21-27, ESV

²² But **be DOERS** of the *word*, & not **HEARERS** only, *deceiving* yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word & not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself & goes away & at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the **perfect law**, the law *of liberty* (*the law that liberates/frees up*), & *perseveres* (*patiently endure various difficulties*), being no hearer who forgets but a **DOER** who *acts*, he will be **blessed** in his *doing—James 1:22-25, ESV*

The “Beautiful’ Harvey Martin”



As a member of
The “Beautiful Harvey Martin” fan-club you received...

- * An autographed picture of
Harvey Martin
- * A ticket to a preseason game
- * A decal to iron on a shirt

While I was a member of The “Beautiful Harvey Martin”
fan club, I did not **KNOW** Harvey Martin
Further, Harvey Martin did not **KNOW** Donovan Kelly

The “Beautiful’ Harvey Martin”



Similarly, there are a lot of people who **CLAIM** to be Christians or “Christ-followers”

- * They go to church
- * Read their Bible
- * Monitor their conduct

And yet one day Jesus will say to them, *“Depart from Me, for I never KNEW you...”*

The “Beautiful” Harvey Martin



Both Jesus & James warn us that there's more to being a Christian than being a member of the Jesus Christ “Fan Club”

Remember: **biblical faith** is both...

A **belief/acceptance** of/in *certain intellectual facts*

- * God exists

- * Jesus is God

- * Jesus was crucified & raised from the dead

And **trust, ACTING** upon your **beliefs**

What does it mean to be
a “Doer” of the word?



What is our “end goal” in this life?

Breaking down what it means to be a “**doer**” of the **word**?

According to **Jesus** (Matthew 7:21-27)
The **true believer “does”** (action word) the will of the Father

Example

“**Builds** (action word) his/her house upon the rock”

Key metaphor

House = a person's life

Two foundations/(cf *Psalms* 1:1-6 paths) to build your “house” (life) upon...

* **Rock** (dependable/stable) = Jesus' teachings

* **Sand** (shifting/unstable) = Culture, personal beliefs

Conclusion:

A “**Doer**” is one who...

(Actively) **Structures** his/her *life* around the **Person** & the **teachings** of **Jesus**

Breaking down what it means to be a “**doer**” of the **word**?

According to **James** (James 1:22-25)
“Be **doers** (action word) of the **word**
& not *hearers* (passive word) only”

- Those who are “**hearers**” only
- * *Deceive* (delude) themselves
 - * They “**may agree with**” what they’ve read &/or heard
 - * But they don’t put those **words** into **action**

“**Doers**” ...

Look intently = to carefully study the perfect law (Torah) of liberty (freedom)

“**Doers**” ...

Act upon what they read & their lives are *formed/shaped* by it

Question:

What is our “*end goal*” in this life as Christians/Christ-followers? (Why are we to be “doers of the word?”)

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

James alludes to “*looking intently*” into a mirror in order to see your face

(Today) Mirrors show us an accurate reflection of ourselves

Ancient mirrors were polished pieces of metal that helped a person to see their image but didn't give an true reflection



Question:

What is our “*end goal*” in this life as Christians/Christ-followers? (Why are we to be “doers of the word?”)

“Let Us make man in Our image, after our likeness...So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male & female He created them”

Genesis 1:26-27, ESV

Answer:

From Genesis 1 - Revelation 22

The **goal** for “*God’s people*” in this life is:

- * To be **molded/shaped** into *the image of Christ* (God) &
- * To **Accurately reflect Him** in all we do, say, & think

Question:

What does this mean & look like?



You reflect God by living counter-culturally

Salmon swim upstream, against the current/flow of the river

Likewise, we are to live “counter” to our present culture

What this does not mean is...

- * You are expected to live a life of “sinless perfection”
- * You have to be “odd for God”
- * You have the right to judge others harshly

What this does mean is...

- * You are no longer “bound” to sin (you can choose not to sin)
- * You are able, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live a life pleasing to God
- * It is this same Holy Spirit who will “mold/shape” you to become the person He envisions you to be

It is written, *“You shall be holy, for I am holy”*

1 Peter 1:16, ESV



You reflect God by being conformed to the image of Christ

“For those whom God foreknew he also predestined *to be conformed to the image of his Son*, in order that Jesus might be the firstborn among many brothers” Romans 8:29, ESV

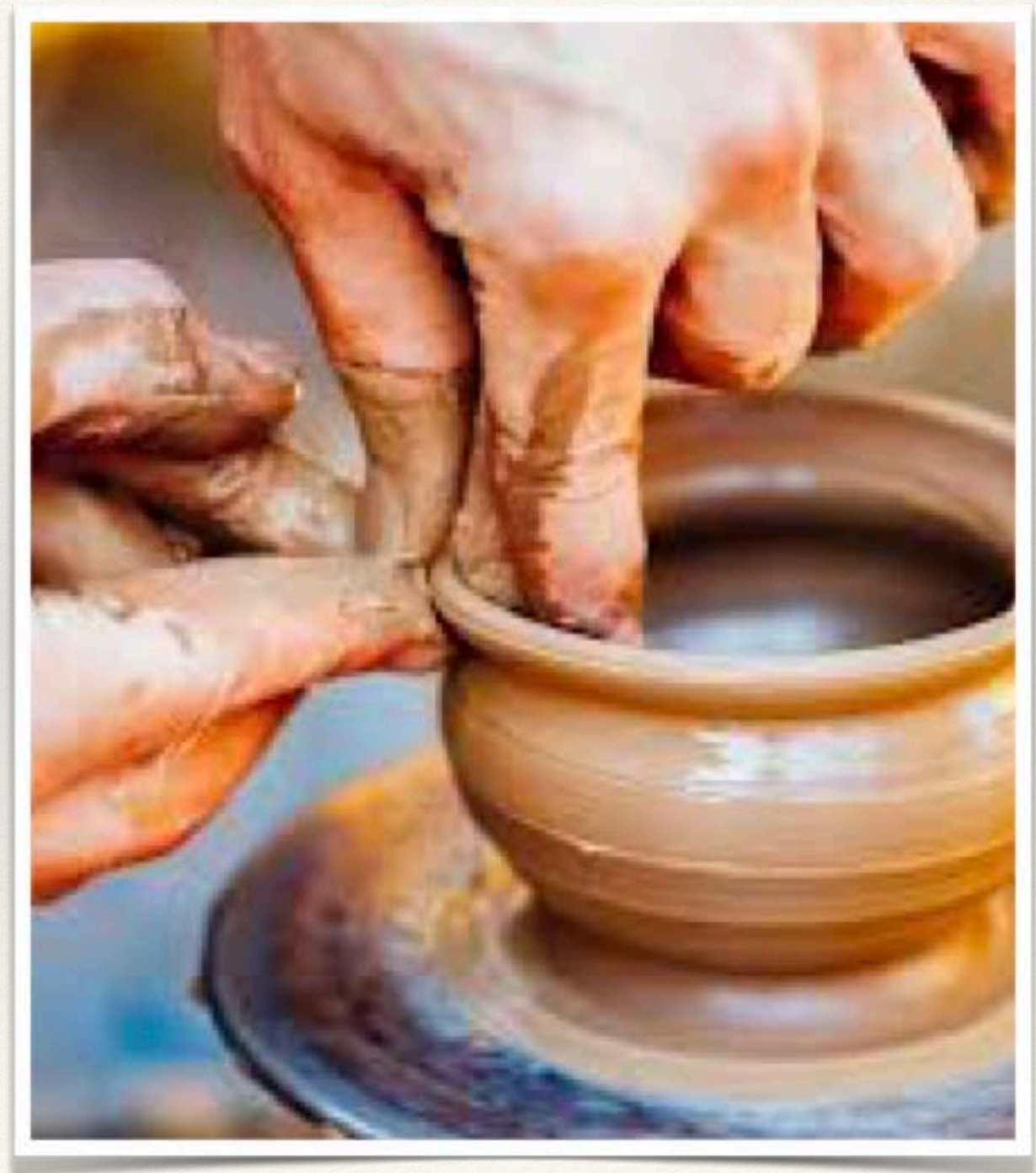
“*Do not be conformed* to this age but *be transformed* by the renewal of your mind”
Romans 12:2, ESV

Transformation into the person God created you to be begins with the *mind*

At PCA we talk a lot about a “**worldview**” which is *how you think about & perceive (interpret) reality*

Each day you make a conscious decision to:

- * **Become more & more like Jesus & the person God created you to be**
- * **And less & less like your former self**



Our issue: verses 19-20

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

“Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools” Ecclesiastes 7:9, ESV

James is NOT saying that “anger” is a sin

- * Jesus got angry
- * “Be angry & do not sin” Ephesians 4:26-27, ESV

Point:

Human anger, by its very nature, does not produce righteous (godly) behavior

Question:

How are we to live in such a way as to “*produce righteous (godly) behavior?*”

“Speak when you are angry, and you will make the best speech you will ever regret...”



Our challenge: verse 21

Reflect God in word & deed

*“Therefore **put away** all filthiness and rampant wickedness and **receive** with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” James 1:21, ESV*

*“Lay aside” ... “Put off” ... “Put to death”
The picture portrays **“taking off”** dirty clothes
Actively striving (daily) to resist living in the flesh*

*“...to **put off** your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life...and to **put on** the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness & holiness”
Ephesians 4:22, 24, ESV*

Examples of what to “put off” (not an exhaustive list)

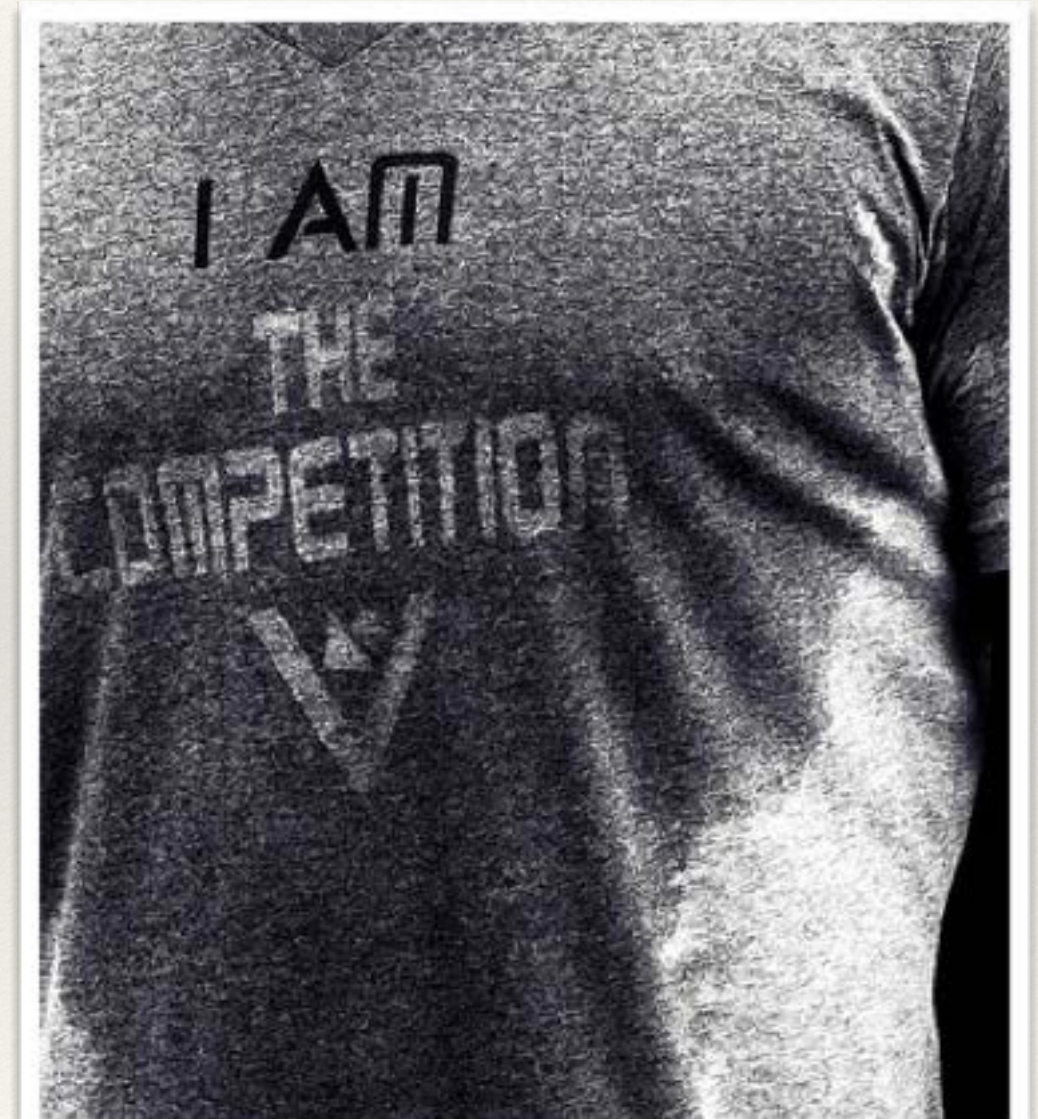
Sinful attitudes: *lust, idolatry, wrath/malice, pride*

Sinful actions: *fornication, fits of rage, drunkenness*

Sinful speech: *lying, backbiting, vulgarity, slander*

All of these defile you

People who workout have a mental image of what they want to look like but know they will never attain it



Point: our goal is *not to become* God but to *become like* God

Our challenge: verse 21

Reflect God in word & deed

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you...” & “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy & beloved”
Colossians 3:5, 12, ESV

“...and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness”
Ephesians 4:22, 24, ESV

According to James (cf. Philippians 2:1-12)
Humility (viewing ourselves rightly) = the *attitude*
with/in which we are to live

The *implanted* word = what God has placed in you
Received = God’s word is a gift that cannot be earned
Point: God’s word has the power to both save/rescue
your entire being from sin & transform your entire being

“Put on” ... “walk” (i.e. to *live like...*)
Actively striving (daily) to be like Jesus in
my character & my actions



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“Put on” ... “walk” (i.e. to live like...)
Actively striving (daily) to be like Jesus in my character & my actions

Examples of what to put on (not an exhaustive list)

Christ-reflecting attitudes: love, mercy, humility

Christ-reflecting actions: forgiving, serving, praying

Christ-reflecting speech: speaking the truth in love

These work to transform your character to be like God

Point:

Over a period of time you should not “look” like the same person you were



True & False (Religion): verse 27

²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, 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, and to keep oneself unstained from the world, James 1:26-27, ESV

False Religion/Faith

One mark of "True Christian Faith" is *self-control*
IF you do not control your tongue, which expresses what is going on inside of you,
THEN what you're professing to believe is *useless/worthless*

Point: for your Religion/Faith to be true it **MUST** be active in the transformation of your inner person

True Religion/Faith

There are 2 components which reveal genuine faith
Internal: seen in how you are actively striving to be like Jesus (Ephesians 1:4)

External: seen in who you are actively serving (others) in the name of Jesus (Matthew 25:31-46)

True Religion/Faith v. False Religion/Faith

