



*Pointers and questions on the book of*  
**James**

**Session 2**

**1:19-27**

**Hearing and Doing**

**Summary**

- 1:19-21** If we don't choose to react to pressure in the godly way described earlier, we are likely to start talking critically and angrily. James warns us that this always leads to major problems.
- 1:22-25** Ordering our life according to God's Word will keep us on track. His Word is like a mirror, revealing our character-blemishes. When we finish looking in the mirror it should be to go and fix those blemishes. If we don't, looking in the mirror is a waste of time.
- 1:26-27** Christianity is highly practical. Using spiritual language and just turning up at meetings is not what it's about. If we really are the Lord's we will be noted for the way we curb our tongue and for our practical kindness to those in need.

**Questions to get you thinking**

1. Are you a good listener? Or do you prefer to talk—chiefly about yourself, your circumstances and your problems? Do you need to make some adjustments here? (v19)
2. Is anger *always* wrong? Does God get angry? (v19b-20)
3. What is meant by 'the word planted in you' (v21)? What is to be our attitude to it? Is that *your* attitude?
4. We don't like to think that we are self-deceived. How, according to v22, is it likely to happen? Think about the last few Sunday messages you have listened to. Have you actually *done* anything in response to them? So are you self-deceived?
5. Talk about the 'mirror' picture in v23-25. What can you practically do to stop yourself 'forgetting' what you have read in the Word and to enable you to make character-adjustments?
6. James describes the Word as 'the perfect law that gives freedom' (v25). What does this mean?
7. The idea of 'deceiving oneself', introduced in v22, occurs again in v26. How does it happen this time? Be brutally honest: are you self-deceived in this way?
8. How can we recognise 'pure and faultless' Christianity? The features it mentions are not a complete list but just samples. What other ways could you add? Are you doing such things yourself?
9. What does it mean, in practice, to be 'polluted by the world' (v27)? How can you stop this happening?

