



If we're going to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet 3:18), we need the living power of the implanted word of God in our hearts. Listen carefully to how James describes it:

Therefore put away all _____ and rampant wickedness and _____ with _____ the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21)

The apostle Peter uses the same sort of word picture to describe the living power of this implanted word:

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable _____ but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for

"All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the _____ of the Lord remains forever."



And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (1 Pet 1:22-25)

But James also makes clear what we must do in order for this implanted word to have its intended, powerful effect on our lives:

But be _____ of the word, and not _____ only, deceiving yourselves. 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. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once _____ what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be _____ in his doing. (James 1:22-25)

In order to help us understand, can we find any examples? James provides a few in the following verses:

- * "If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his _____... (1:26)
- * Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to _____ orphans and widows in their affliction...
- * ...and to keep oneself _____ from the world. (1:27)
- * If a brother or sister is _____ clothed and lacking in daily food... (2:14-26)

In order for the living and abiding word of God to have its intended, powerful effect on our lives, we have to be doers of the word, and not hearers only. That's how we'll " _____ " ourselves "in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 21).

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Why, even before talking about “receiving” the implanted word, does James tell us we must “put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness” (James 1:21)? Why can’t I hold onto those things and at the same time grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus?

- In your own words, what will it look like (and sound like) to “receive with meekness the implanted word” (James 1:21)?

- How does the word get “implanted” in our hearts?

- In 1 Peter 1:23, as Peter uses the same sort of word picture, he references being “born again.” What is he talking about? How does that happen, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God?

- What powerful point is Peter making in 1 Peter 1:24-25?

- In your own words, what pitfall is James describing in 1:22-24? In practical terms, how might we fall into that exact trap? Can you think of any example possibilities?

- How does the living power of the implanted word help us...
 - “Bridle” our tongues?

 - Care for the needy?

 - Remain unstained from the world?

- Why do you think James brings up demons (2:19), Abraham (2:21-23), and Rahab (2:25) in this discussion?

- What basic principle do we need to see and understand in James 2:26?