

**John 18:37b** “I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

**v. 38** Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”

32. Jesus’ person was absolute perfect humanity. His inventory of ideas was the sum total of divine thought. His decisions and applications were perfect expressions of divine guidance.
33. John exclaimed this truth in his introductory paragraph to his Gospel:

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

34. James describes the application of this grace and truth in:

**James 1:17** Every good-of-intrinsic-value act of giving and every completed gift keeps on being from above, coming down from the ultimate source of the Father of lights, with Whom there is no change or alteration or the occurrence of an eclipse. (EXT)

35. If Scripture is the presentation of absolute truth, if Jesus Christ is the human expression of that truth in His Person and Works, and if that truth never suffers change or alteration or occurrence of an eclipse, then we are forced to conclude that the Word of God is alive and powerful and perfectly capable of successfully addressing every circumstance, adversity, exigency, disaster, tragedy, or heartbreak that life in the devil’s world challenges us to confront.

**Philippians 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

**v. 7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

36. I believe that in times of national or personal trial, it is good to go back to the principles that James presented in the first chapter of his epistle. Every circumstance we face was known to God in eternity past. When they arrive in time, we must be prepared to engage them through the power of the Word and the Father’s matchless grace.

37. We begin our review with this expanded translation:

**James 1:22** But keep on becoming [ IM #13 ]  
doers of the implanted Word, and not only hearers  
who deceive themselves due to self-induced  
stupidity.

**v. 23** For if, and it is true, anyone is a hearer  
of the Word in the *noús* and not a doer from the  
*kardía*, such a person, is like a nobleman who looks  
contemplatively at his facial features in a mirror;

**v. 24** for once he had continued to  
contemplate himself intently in the mirror and  
departed, he has the existing result of immediately  
disregarding what kind of man he habitually and  
regularly was.

**v. 25** But the one who looks with an earnest  
desire to absorb in detail the perfect law of freedom,  
and continues to live in close proximity to it, not  
having become a forgetful hearer only, but a doer,  
this man shall acquire unalloyed happiness by the  
production of divine good. (EXT)

1. This paragraph concludes chapter one and contains information that the believer needs to deal with the unexpected, the intractable, and the overwhelming events that seemingly are more than the soul can bear but are made tolerable by the application of what has been learned academically from Bible study.
2. The reason for taking in doctrine in times of prosperity is so we can apply it under pressure. What is in the divine decree in eternity past will occur I time. We must be prepared to orient and adjust to circumstances as they occur. Spiritual growth prepares the way for such application.
3. Verse 22 opens with the 13th imperative mood of the book, the present tense of the verb **γίνομαι** (*gínomai*) indicating linear action of an ongoing process of “becoming” something.
4. The imperative mood is a command and is translated, “Keep on becoming.” This mandate introduces the daily requirement to utilize Operation Z.
5. If the soul is to be transformed, the believer must take up the task of becoming a doer of the word rather than just a hearer. Paul takes up this subject in:

**Romans 12:2** Stop being molded [ present middle imperative of **συσχηματίζω** (*suschēmatízō*) ] to this age, but be transformed [ present passive imperative of **μεταμορφόω** (*metamorphóō*) ] by the renovation [ **ἀνακαίνωσις** (*anakaínōsis*) ] of your thought, so that you may prove what the will of God is, namely, the good, the well-pleasing, and the complete. (EXT)

6. What James commands the believer to do is “keep on becoming doers.” Paul directs the Romans to “be transformed” by the “renovation” of their inventory of ideas presently being “molded” by the devil’s world.
7. Paul wants his congregation to “stop being molded” while James wants his to “keep on becoming” rather than “merely hearers.”
8. James’s emphasis is on application. But application cannot occur under the ministry of the Holy Spirit until the principles are transferred to the *kardía* as *epígnōsis*.
9. The sequence of events is (1) to hear the Word in the *noús*, (2) transfer it to the *kardía*, and (3) apply it by a volitional decision.
10. This latter stage is where James’s imperative mood directs the believer to “keep on becoming doers.”
11. The word “doers” is the noun, **ποιητής** (*poiētēs*). In context, this is a believer who is to fulfill the command to “keep on being a doer” and what he is to be a doer of is **λόγος** (*lógos*): the Word.
12. The “Word” that the believer is capable of “doing” is mentioned in verse 21 as “the implanted Word.” This refers to biblical mandates as well as every principle, standard, or directive contained in the New Testament.
13. The way that many in present–day Christendom interpret the command in James 1:22 is to place emphasis on “being *doers* of the word.”
14. That most definitely is the idea, but the assumed application has to do with getting out and doing things leaders of the congregation direct them to do.
15. It is not our responsibility to belittle their efforts because some actually accomplish the mission under the filling of the Spirit.
16. However, in James’s context, he is instructing his “hearers” to take on the task of learning biblical mandates and then individually responding to the Holy Spirit’s guidance.
17. In their daily walk with the Lord, they are commanded to be doers of those things personally learned from individual study of the Word.



18. They are not to merely hear the Word taught and then remain quiescent, doing nothing. There is the important negative phrase, “not merely.” It contains the negative conjunction **μή (mē)** plus **μόνος (mónos)**: “not only.”
19. This is followed by the Greek noun that is translated “hearers”: **ἀκροατής (akroatēs)**. In New Testament applications it refers to listening, but without applying what one hears.
20. To bring out this point we will translate it “not only passive hearers of what is taught.”
21. If hearing passively is the extent of some believers’ investment in Bible study, then the verse concludes by informing these people that they “delude themselves.”
22. The word, “delude,” is the present middle participle of **παραλογίζομαι (paralogízomai)**: “defraud, deceive.”
23. The present tense indicates such people keep on deceiving themselves.
24. This is self-induced stupidity as is defined by the dictionary:

**Stupid. Given to unintelligent decisions or acts. Marked by or resulting from unreasoned thinking or acting. Lacking interest.**<sup>4</sup>
25. This stupidity is the result of hearing the Word, but not responding with a curious interest in its meaning, its application, and its result.
26. Instead, the individuals consider use of the information to be of no interest to them and certainly not worth serious consideration.
27. On the other hand, the doer is the one whose positive volition to the Word results in the Holy Spirit transferring the information over to the *kardía*.
28. From that status, he actively relies on the information to make good decisions from a position of strength and actively applies it in pertinent situations.

**James 1:22** But keep on **becoming** [ **IM #13** ]  
doers of the implanted Word, and not only passive  
hearers who keep on deceiving themselves due to  
self-induced stupidity. (EXT)

1. This verse clearly indicates that spiritual growth to the level of consistent application is a process: “keep on becoming doers of the implanted Word.”
2. The imperative mood is a command from God to the believer to use his time to invest in biblical orientation for subsequent biblical application.

---

<sup>4</sup> Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed., s.v. “stupid.”

