

*“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”*

**(Hebrews 6:1–2, NKJV)**

God's desire is for each of us to build upon these six foundational doctrines of the faith

- Paul says that we should go on to perfection

*“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* **(Philippians 3:14, NKJV)**

*“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,”* **(Ephesians 2:20–21, NKJV)**

- Just learning the truths we have uncovered to add to our knowledge of the Bible is not enough
- God expects us to commit ourselves to live according to the revelation we've gained
- To begin to do something with what we've heard
- Its both hearing and doing that establish the foundation in our lives upon which we can effectively build

## God is building Himself a House

### Ephesians 2:19–22 (The Message)

God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

### 1 Peter 2:5, 7 (NLT)

<sup>5</sup> And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests.\* Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.

<sup>7</sup> Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him.\* But for those who reject him, “The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.”\*

- We are living stones – brick and mortar
- God is the Builder – **Hebrews 11:10**
- Jesus is the cornerstone – **1 Corinthians 3:11**
- We are fellow workers– **1 Corinthians 3:9**

## 1 Corinthians 3:8–9 (NLT)

<sup>8</sup> The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. <sup>9</sup> For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

- Am I building for the eternal or the temporal?
- Am I building the kingdom of God or my kingdom?

Heaven will be so much better than anything in this world, however, there will be status in heaven – places of greater and lesser honor

## Psalms 84:10 (NLT)

<sup>10</sup> A single day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else! I would rather be a gatekeeper (*floor scrubber*) in the house of my God than live the good life in the homes of the wicked.

- *Floor Scrubber* – MSG
- Any place in God's house, Zion is better than life anywhere else
- But let's not miss the point of what I believe God wants us to know about the treasure we are storing up for all of eternity
- Let us not forget that the way we build makes a difference for all of eternity

*“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” (James 1:21–25, NKJV)*

- The Bible commands us to be doers not only hearers
- We are called to be people of repentance
- We are to make sure that our faith is in Christ alone
- We are to help people get saved, water baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit
- We are to fight for and maintain unity in the Body of Christ

We are to find opportunities to lay hands on the sick that they may recover and impart a blessing to people through the laying on of hands as the Holy Spirit leads

- We are to live our life with reward in mind as we encourage others to live the same way
- We are to warn the unsaved that there will be a judgment and the only way to be secure is in Christ
- These foundational truths we have uncovered are principles that define our walk with God

We can do all that He has commanded!

*“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” (James 1:21, NKJV)*

- “Lay aside” – *to take something off, to lay it down and push it away, putting space between that object and yourself*
- It’s a picture of someone pushing something so far away that they never pick it up again
- The Greek word is used to describe the act of removing old, dirty clothes
- Do clothes take themselves off?

*“that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:22–24, NKJV)*

James is saying that as we are reading the word and discover an area in our lives that doesn’t look like the new man that we are to repent

- Make a conscious decision to embrace God’s truth and then make the change that is needed
- Take the steps necessary to get my way of thinking or living in line with God
- Taking off the old and putting on the new
- Never to wear the old man again

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:1–2, NKJV)*

- Presenting ourselves a sacrifice to God, being transformed through His Spirit
- Renewing our minds and living in the perfect will of God for our lives!

**James 1:21** – *“receive with meekness”*

*“Meekness” – “describes a person who knows and likes what he thinks, but has decided to lay aside and deny his feelings, deny his thoughts, and opinions, and willfully submit to the authority of someone else to receive what that person has to say or impart to him”*

- Meekness is not the same as weakness
- A meek person is someone who has submitted himself to another – true humility
- As someone would submit to a commanding officer in the military
- Someone who makes a deliberate decision to deny himself and serve another
- Saying no to our flesh and opinions

**James 1:21** – “*able to save your souls*”

“Able to save your souls” – “*Divine power (dunamis) that can deliver, save, or heal your (psyche) – mind, will, emotions and physical body*”

The *engrafted* Word of God can heal your body, prolong your life, deliver you from bondage, and cause every area of life to prosper

- It's like having a new organ (*mind*) transplanted (*grafted in*) into your body
- Don't allow your body to reject the new organ

**For the Word of God to be truly transplanted in you, there are five steps you must take**

**Submission:**

- You have to be submitted to the Word and the authority of God
- You have to make a decision that you're going to come under God's authority, believe what He says, and do what He tells you to do, regardless of how you feel

**Elimination:**

- You have to eliminate all other voices, feelings, and opinions — including your own
- Eliminate anything that would distract you

## **Decision:**

- You have to make the decision:

*“I will not veer from God’s Word. I’m going to be committed to what He says and to the principles of His Word. I’m in this for the long haul!”*

## **Continuation:**

- You can’t just follow these steps once
- You have to continually implement them — denying yourself, remaining in submission to the Word of God, eliminating whatever is a hindrance to your spiritual walk

You have to continually say, *“I’m going to receive this word. This word may not feel natural to me. It may be different than what I’ve been taught in the past. However, this is the word that has the power to save me, change me, heal me, and alter my entire course of life, and I need to have this if I’m going to live the fullness of what God intends for my life.”*

## **Reception:**

- As you follow steps 1 through 4, things finally kick into gear and the Word begins to produce life in you
- You begin to truly receive the Word of God into your life
- When you reach this stage of true reception, this verse says the Word “is able to save your soul.”

*“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22, NKJV)*

*“But be doers” – original language gives the idea that our sanctification is a process*

- You won't know everything to do overnight
- Start where you are – be obedient to the Word that you hear
- The word, “*doer*” is the Greek word where we get the word “*poet*”
- James is saying get creative in your obedience
- Find a way to obey what the Word says
- (*Example of learning to tithe and support 10 missionaries*)

*“Not hearers only” – original language gives you a picture of a student that is only in class because they have to be*

- They really don't care what kind of grade they get
- They are bored with the subject

Showing up is important but if the word is going to do anything for you you have to listen to it and find a way to obey it

*“Deceiving yourselves” – original language is speaking of someone who has made an error in analysis*

- Thinking just because you show up your life will get better
- You are making a tragic miscalculation

Here is how you can find out if you are a hearer only or a doer

*“For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;”*

**(James 1:23, NKJV)**

- A picture of someone looking at the face they were born with
- Most of us look in the mirror and wish we could trade something in for another
- Maybe we don't like our face or want to lose some weight, etc.

The writer is giving us the idea that when we look in a mirror we usually see something we wish we could change

- I need to shave, brush my teeth, fix my hair, put on some makeup
- Do something to make our appearance better

*“for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.”* **(James 1:24, NKJV)**

- Well I need to make a change but, someday
- One of these days I'll do that
- We see something that is wrong but rather than spend time in the Word and prayer we just get up and walk away
- We make excuses and delay the change we need to make
- Deciding to go on and do nothing to change

*“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” (James 1:25, NKJV)*

- Up to this point, James is referring to a person using a handheld mirror
- Here again, he is saying that this man starts out the same way
- But this person doesn't rush off without dealing with what needs to change
- He is so concerned that he goes instead to a full-length mirror, where he can look at the problem more closely
- He wants to fix what is wrong
- So he hovers over, *“the perfect law of liberty”*

As if it were a large full-length mirror that reveals both what is right and what needs correction in his reflected image

- This phrase is referring to the Word of God
- To a doer, the Bible is not just something he hears
- It's not just a message that is preached
- To him, it is the *perfect law of liberty*
- It is a law to be obeyed
- He is saying, *“I'm going to adapt my life to agree with this Word”*

*“Liberty” – a slave who has been emancipated*

- If I look into God's word and do what it says I will be emancipated
- It will set me free!

*“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:2, NKJV)*

- The eternal truths of God’s word will set me free like a slave who has been emancipated

*James 1:25 – and continues in it*

- He is determined to not leave the mirror until that flaw is repented of and permanently fixed

*“This man will be blessed” – “hilarious or hilarity”*

- The doer is going to be so blessed that he can hardly contain himself
- That’s what you feel when you get set free
- You are breaking free of the former negative patterns and hindrances

*“In what he does” – work or deed*

- It takes work to be a continual doer of the word
- If you think it will take little or no commitment you will not have success
- The Greek word for learner or student is a disciple
- To be a disciple it takes discipline

*“If you abide in Me, and My words **abide** in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” (John 15:7–8, NKJV)*