

James 1:19-27
QUIT KIDDING YOURSELF

INTRODUCTION

The emphasis in this section is on the dangers of self-deception: “deceiving your own selves” (James 1:22); “deceiveth his own heart” (James 1:26). If a Christian sins because Satan deceives him, that is one thing. But if he deceives himself, that is a far more serious matter.

Many people are deceiving themselves into thinking they are saved when they are not. “Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name, and in thy name have cast out devils, and in thy name done many wonderful works?’ And then will I profess unto them, ‘I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity’” (Matt. 7:22–23).

But there are true believers who are fooling themselves concerning their Christian walk. They think they are spiritual when they are not. It is a mark of maturity when a person faces himself honestly, knows himself, and admits his needs. It is the immature person who pretends, “I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing” (Rev. 3:17).

Spiritual reality results from the proper relationship to God through His Word. God’s Word is truth (John 17:17), and if we are rightly related to God’s truth, we cannot be dishonest or hypocritical. In these verses, James stated that we have three responsibilities toward God’s Word, and if we fulfill these responsibilities, we will have an honest walk with God and men.

RECEIVE THE WORD (1:19–21)

Swift to hear (v. 19a)

Slow to speak (v. 19b)

Slow to wrath (v. 19c)

A prepared heart (v. 21)

SECTION 2: PRACTICE THE WORD (1:22–25)

Examination (vv. 23–25)

Restoration (Ex. 38:8)

Transformation (2 Cor. 3:18)

Share the Word (1:26–27)

Service (v. 27a)

Separation from the world (v. 27b)

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¹ This outline was adapted from Wiersbe, Warren W. *Be Mature Growing up in Christ*; 2nd ed. United States: David C. Cook; 2010.