



Series Life Tools

Passage James 1:16-22

Title Successful Living II

Speaker: Dave Menard 05/14/2017

Discussion Starter: Reflecting back once again on the verses in James 1:16-20, we know that every good gift comes from God, and that He has a great plan and purpose for our lives. To avail ourselves of these great gifts and plans that God has for us, we must first become better listeners or **“Swift to Hear the Word of God”**. In James 1:21 we are instructed to take an additional step to receive the word of God. Explain in your own words what it means to be a receiver of God’s word?

God’s Word Can Save Our Souls (James 1:21; John 16:7-11; Romans 7:14-25)

- What additional insight do we attain from reading John 16:7-11 about how God takes our souls from **“Death to Life”**? How do these verses relate to James 1:21?
- We learned that spiritually dead people can believe in God. What are some of the character attributes that distinguish and differentiate a spiritually living person from someone who is spiritually dead?
- We also see that God’s word can save our souls from the **“Eternal Separation from God (Hell)”**. Why do you think there is so little talk about hell in churches these days? What is the definition and the purpose of God’s common grace? How can this grace sometimes be a hindrance to us in this day and age?
- Summarize in your own words what Paul is trying to convey to us in Romans 7:14-25 as it pertains to how Jesus is able to save us from our **“Present Sin”**?
- The fourth way we looked at how God’s word can save our souls is from **“Futility to Purpose”**. In Jesus Christ, life has great purpose. In what ways has God changed the purpose of your life?

Receive God’s Word With Humility (James 1:21; Matthew 13:3-8)

- Why is it so important to receive God’s word with humility? What is the relevance of the different soils mentioned in Matthew 13:3-8 and how does that relevance impact our daily walk as Christians today?

Thorns That Hinder Receiving God’s Word (James 1:21; Psalm 139:23-24; Matthew 23:1-6)

- **1> Willful Practicing of Sin.** Who was the first person that came to your mind when you heard Pastor Dave giving examples of those who may call themselves Christians, but are willfully practicing sin in their lives? Compare and contrast this to your thoughts and David’s prayer in Psalm 139:23-24.
- **2> Value Bible Knowledge Over Godly Character.** What lessons can we learn from how Jesus addresses the Pharisees and Scribes in Matthew 23:1-6? How do these lessons apply to us today?