

## “Receive With Meekness The Implanted Word”

James 1:21

### The gospel to be preached. Romans 1:16

- God desires all men to be saved.
  - 1 Timothy 2:4 Knowledge of the truth.
  - 2 Peter 3:9 Come to repentance.
- Accomplished through the “foolishness of preaching.” 1 Corinthians 1:21
- Go “make disciples,” through preaching. Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16
- “Faith” produced by hearing. cf. Romans 10:17; John 20:30-31

## One Must Have A Receptive Heart

- Not everyone has a receptive heart.
  - Jews who heard Jesus preach. John 5:39-42; cf. Matthew 13:15
  - Those who stoned Stephen. Acts 7:51ff
- cf. “Honest and good heart.” Luke 8:15ff
  - Ethiopian eunuch. Acts 8
  - Cornelius. Acts 10
  - Mary. Luke 10:39-42

## One Must Have A Receptive Heart

- Necessary for one who is not a Christian.
- Necessary for Christians!
  - James writing to those who are “begotten” James 1:18
  - James speaks of himself as a “servant of Jesus Christ.” James 1:1
  - Addresses Jewish Christians in the Dispersion. James 1:1
  - Urges them to “hold not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ ... with respect of persons.” James 2:1
  - Urges them to “be patient unto the coming of the Lord.” James 5:7
  - These are to “receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” James 1:21

## Hindrances To A Receptive Heart Must Be Removed

- Those who would receive the word with meekness must be:
  - “Swift to hear.” James 1:19
    - Hunger and thirst. Matthew 5:6; 1 Peter 2:2
    - Isaiah 55:3, “Incline your ear, and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live.”
    - Matthew 11:15; 13:13-15
    - Hear with the desire to carry it out. James 1:23

## Hindrances To A Receptive Heart Must Be Removed

- Those who would receive the word with meekness must be:
  - “Slow to speak.” James 1:19 – two ears, but one mouth.
    - Proverbs 29:20, “Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him.”
    - Proverbs 21:23, “Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue Keepeth his soul from troubles.”
    - James 1:26 the man who “bridles not his tongue ... this man’s religion is vain.”

## Hindrances To A Receptive Heart Must Be Removed

- Those who would receive the word with meekness must be:
  - “Slow to wrath” – “for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.” James 1:19-20
    - cf. Naaman. 2 Kings 5
    - cf. 2 Corinthians 12:20; Galatians 5:20

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## Hindrances To A Receptive Heart Must Be Removed

“Wherefore ...” James 1:21

- “Putting away all filthiness.” dirty, filthy. Filth, filthiness, figuratively in a moral sense (James 1:21).

Synonyms:

- *aischrótes*, shame, obscenity;
- *molusmós*, defilement;
- *aselgeia*, lasciviousness, licentiousness;
- *aischrologia*, filthy talk;
- *miasma*, defilement;
- *miasmós*, the act or process of defiling;
- *akatharsia*, uncleanness. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

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## Hindrances To A Receptive Heart Must Be Removed

“Wherefore ...” James 1:21

- “Putting away all ... overflowing of wickedness”
- Not just abundance or excess ...
  - But, put away ALL OF IT. cf. 1 Peter 2:1; Ephesians 4:17-25; cf. Colossians 3:5
  - Denying ungodliness and worldly lust! Titus 2:11

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“Wherefore ...” James 1:21

- “Receive **WITH MEEKNESS** ... the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”
- Before the word can save your soul, it must be received. cf. Luke 8:11-15
  - We are responsible for its reception.

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### What Is Meekness?

- 2 Timothy 2:25, “In meekness correcting them that oppose themselves; if peradventure God may give them repentance unto the knowledge of the truth”
- 1 Peter 3:15, “but sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: (being) ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear.”

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### What Is Meekness?

“It is that attitude of spirit we accept God’s dealings with us as good and do not dispute or resist ... it is a condition of mind and heart which demonstrates gentleness, not in weakness, but in power. It is a balance born in strength of character.” (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

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### What Is Meekness?

- Mild, Gentle, Patient, Longsuffering, Absence of pride ...
- Not incompatible with power.  
NOTE: Moses. Numbers 12:3; Jesus. Matthew 11:28
- One who hears with the intention of obeying.  
James 1:22-25
  - Ethiopian eunuch. Acts 8
  - Cornelius. Acts 10
  - Mary. Luke 10:39-42

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### Conclusion:

James 1:21, *“Wherefore ... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”*

- He who hears sound doctrine taught, but does not put it into practice will not profit.
- *“Take heed what ye hear.”* Mark 4:24
- *“Take heed how ye hear.”* Luke 8:18

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