

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

KNOW GOD'S TRUE WORD

James 1:19 "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger."

You must reread James 1:18 to understand what James wants you "to know" in verse 19. James 1:18 says, ". . .He (God) brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first-fruits of His creatures." What you need to know is God's word of truth. James exhorts that you intently listen to God's word and know what it has to say to you.

Why is it so important to be "quick to hear" God's word? Jesus said to the Sadducees (Jewish leaders dedicated to keeping the Temple pure) who thought they knew God's word well, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God." (Matthew 22:29) St. Paul's answer, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (1 Timothy 3:16-17) Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father to bless His people through His word, "Sanctify (make holy) them in the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17)

Why do you need encouragement to "be quick to hear God's word?" This is almost a rhetorical question, isn't it? The answer is so obvious that it isn't obvious. Do you realize you hear 20,000 to 30,000 words each day? If you are intentional in studying (Bible studies of various kinds), reading (your Bible, daily devotions, etc.) and hearing God's word (worship services, audio recordings, pod casts, etc.) each day, then His words are part of your daily hearing. If, on the other hand, you are not intentional in "hearing His word" daily, the 20,000 to 30,000 words you hear each day are words from the world that are void of His words.

Again, why is God's word of truth so important for you? His ". . .word is a lamp to your feet and a light to your path." (Psalm 119:105) His word alone is His "power for your salvation." (Romans 1:16)

Prayer: Lord, keep me steadfast through Your word. Amen.

(A hymn verse to pray after you have worshipped or read God's word)

Almighty Father, bless The Word
Which through Your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!
(LSB 923, v. 1)