

## The Word That Saves

- I.** One of the difficulties encountered by all Christians is the possibility of returning to the old life left behind., **Heb. 2:1-4**
- II.** Since it is possible to fall from grace is there something we can do to prevent this from happening?
- III.** Some would have you believe that there isn't anything you can or need to do. They believe God's mercy will cover you regardless of the life you live.
- IV.** As we are going to see the Scriptures are in direct opposition to this view and teach that there are things we can and must do to assure our salvation, **Phil. 2:12**
- V.** With this in mind let's note our passage under consideration, **James 1:21**
- VI.** Previous to his exhortation to receive the word, James has warned that any sin committed comes from ones own lusts, **James 1:13-15**. But Christians have been brought forth "by the word of truth." They are "the first fruits among his creatures," **James 1:18**.
- VII.** This being the case James then exhorts, "Therefore putting aside all filthiness and {all} that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls," (James 1:21).

**Trans:** Let's consider the things we are to do if we are assure ourselves of the salvation God has promised.

### 1. We must change our habits

- A. We are to "put aside all filthiness."
- B. All Christians have had their sins washed away in baptism, **Acts 22:16**
- C. Yet we still deal with committing sinful acts, **1John 1:8-10; 2:1**
- D. James instructs that we are to **put aside** these deeds.
  1. Literally, like clothing, we are to take off, any sinful, morally polluted act.
  2. **Romans 13:12**
- E. The filthiness he is speaking of is moral uncleanness, **Col. 3:8**
- F. We are to repent of these deeds of the flesh.

**Illust: 1Pet. 2:1,2**

**Appl:** Each one of us knows that we struggle with sin in our lives. There are things that each one of us is working on.

1. These sins must be looked at with an attitude of putting them aside.
2. We must strive to remove this moral uncleanness from our lives.

From this passage we can see that there are things we can and must do to assure our salvation. Here, **We are to “put aside all filthiness.”**

**Trans:** not only are we to “**put aside all filthiness.**” James list a second thing we must do in assuring our salvation.

## **2. We are to change our Character**

- A. We are to put aside, “{all} that remains of wickedness.”
  - B. This word for wickedness, does not refer to sin in general, but rather to a malevolent disposition towards one’s neighbors.
  - C. This is to have evil feelings or wish ill will upon someone.
  - D. Christians must lay aside **ALL** desire to bring harm to someone in any fashion. We are not to be mean spirited people.
    1. **Rom. 12:17**
    2. **1Ths. 5:15**
  - E. We must seek to help rather than harm, **Gal. 6:10**

**Illust: 1Pet. 2:21-23**

**Appl:** It is easy at times to wish harm or evil to befall those who seek to harm you or do your wrong.

But this is not part of the Christian walk.

1. Note what Luke writes in **Luke 9:51-56**
2. As those who have been redeemed from the world we must turn from the evil of seeking to bring harm upon our neighbor.
3. We must follow the example of Christ and never return evil for evil.

From this passage we can see that there are things we can and must do to assure our salvation. Here, **We are to put aside, “{all} that remains of wickedness.”**

**Trans:** We have seen that we must **We are to “put aside all filthiness and {all} that remains of wickedness.”** if we have to be assured of our salvation. But James also gives us one other thing we must do.

### **3. We are to change our heart**

A. We must, “in humility receive the word implanted.”

B. Christians are to be humble people,

**1Pet. 5:6.**

**Matt. 5:4**

C. The humility James refers to here implies, “a meek and humble readiness to be taught by the word of God, without flaring up against the teacher.”

D. We must be willing to adhere to God’s word without ill feelings towards what we are taught.

E. Literally James is saying, receive with meekness the word, when implanted, can save your soul.”

1. Christians must be ready at all times to purify themselves of that which might hinder their walk.
2. We must continually work to remove sin from our lives.
3. This can be done if we will receive God’s word and allow it to take root in our.
4. As James writes, we must “...prove *ourselves* doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude *ourselves*,” (James 1:22).

**Illust: Acts 17:11**

**Appl:** As Christians we must be willing to receive God’s word with humility.

We must let this word take root in our hearts, so that it might continue to change us.

From this passage we can see that there are things we can and must do to assure our salvation. Here, **We must, “in humility receive the word implanted.”**

**Con:** Some would have you believe that there isn’t anything you can or need to do. They believe God’s mercy will cover you regardless of the life you live.

As we have seen the Scriptures are in direct opposition to this view and teach that there are things we can and must do to assure our salvation.

**We must change our habits by “putting aside all filthiness**

**We are to change our Character by “putting aside {all} that remains of wickedness.”**

**We are to change our heart by, “humbly receiving the word implanted.”**

If every Christian will do these things then they can be assured of their salvation. As James writes,