TAKE 5! 5 VERSES, 5 QUESTIONS, 5 MINUTES BY MARY KANE

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Please take a moment to quiet yourself before God. Ask Him to forgive you for any sin that is on your heart and to fill you afresh with His Holy Spirit.

Now please read James 1:21-25

What are we supposed to lay aside and what are we supposed to receive according to verse 21?

We are to lay aside evilness and filthiness and replace it with the Word of God. The NKJV reads we are to *receive* the word of God. The word *receive* means to make something our own, to grant access to something, to learn and to not reject something. Whenever we hear the truth of God's Word we are responsible for accepting its teaching and giving it access to our hearts and minds so we may be transformed into the image of Christ.

In verse 21, the word *implanted* is used to modify *word*. *Implanted* in the original Greek means "implanted by others instruction," to grow, to germinate, to produce, to be born. It is through the implanted Word that we gain God's free gift of salvation and are born again. God's Word is meant to changes us. May we never come away from a Bible study without being altered in character and spirit.

Once we receive His Word what are we to do?

We are to be *doers* of the Word. In the Greek, *doers* transliterates as *poieo*. Our English word for *poem* is derived from *poieo*. *Poieo* translates "to make, to contruct, to form or fashion, to carry out to execute, to author. The presentation and hearing of God's Word is a call to action.

If we don't receive the truth of His Word what happens to us?

God's Word gives us an accurate trustworthy description of who we are *able* to be and who we are created to be. When we look into His Word, we see a correct picture of how we are to live, act and conduct ourselves on a daily basis. When we reject His Word, we deceive ourselves—we lie to ourselves and bring death into our lives.

According to the first half of verse 25, why was the law (God's Word) given to us?

To bring us freedom.

What happens when we continue in His Word?

The word *continue* means to "remain always beside, to continue always near, to survive, to remain alive, not to depart, to hold continually, to wait, *to not become another"* (emphasis mine). Please underline the most meaningful definition of *continue*.

God's Word needs to be the very essence of life to us. Keep His Word close to you at all times. Keep it on notecards in your pocket, in your car, on your desk at work so you always have His Word close by whenever you need it.

If we continue in His Word, if we stay beside His Word; close to His word, giving it access to His heart, if we never give up on His Word, we will receive a blessing. Don't give up. Do not "become another." Hold on. Keep the faith—your blessing is coming.

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