



Sermon Study Guide
6/3/18

Gods' grace growing in us, among us, and through us, bringing the fullness of Jesus Christ to all of life.

Series Theme

Faith: Some Assembly Required

Sermon Title

Trust (Shea Strickland)

Key Sermon Points

- Faith is essentially having trust in something or someone.
- We routinely trust in many things such as flying or the brakes in our car without thinking much of it.
- James tells us that simply believing in something is not enough, that actions are required. Paul, on the other hand, seems to indicate that God's grace is received through faith alone.
- Christianity is said to differ from other religions in that our right standing with God and the church is based on faith, not on works or ritual obedience.
- James writes that there are three things that constitute faith. We are to listen, accept, and do.
 - Listen:
 - If there were ever a time/culture in human history that needs to listen more it is now/us.
 - The first thing any of us needs is to listen to the word and voice of God. We often don't want to listen to God because He is telling us things that are not what we want or are willing to accept.
 - We are good at saying "yeah, but" where God's word is concerned.
 - Accept:
 - Accept means to receive or to show hospitality in the original Greek.
 - James's phrase in the original Greek text of chapter 1, verse 8-9 can be translated 'show hospitality to the explosive and powerful word of God that is able to save, deliver and revive your soul.'
 - Do:
 - It is a waste of your time to gather for worship if you only feel good for an hour or a moment and then forget about God for the rest of the week.
 - If you don't do something with what you have heard, have you really received it?
 - Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount by teaching that the wise man puts into practice the words that He has said.

- Something that is given to you freely (\$20) must still be taken and used for it to be of any benefit to you.
- How seriously do you take the things that God has freely given to you? Enough to act upon them?

Scripture: James 1:8-9, Ephesians 2:8-9, Matthew 7:24-27

Personal Application

1. Make a list of some of the "yeah, but..." areas in your life (areas where it is difficult for you to follow God's word without questioning). Pray over your list before God. Begin to work on one of the areas you have listed. Enlist a friend to help you and pray for your progress.
3. Memorize Matthew 7:24-25 this week. Print it, post it in a prominent place and review it several times each day...

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

"And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

Discussion Questions: (conversations)

1. Do you find listening, accepting or doing to be the most difficult when it comes to the word of God? What are some of the areas where it is difficult for you to follow God's word without questioning or holding back?
2. Besides grace & salvation, what are some other things that God has given to us that we have difficulty taking seriously?
3. What might help you to begin to listen, accept or do more consistently when it comes to God's word?
4. Since they are all important, how might we maintain the correct balance between listening, accepting and doing?

Life Groups

Use the discussion questions above (and others as you are led) as you consider listening, accepting and doing God's word. What part can your group play in this process?

Children & Families

Talk with your children about the differences between listening (hearing), accepting (receiving), and doing (obedience). Make a list of the situations when this is most difficult for your kids and for you. Post your list and pray for God's help in making progress in these areas.

Other Resources

Life Lessons: Book of James: Practical Wisdom (Life Lessons): by Max Lucado

The Lucado Life Lessons series continues to be one of the best-selling study guide series on the market today. For small group to individual use, intriguing questions and new material take the participant deeper into God's Word.

Listening to God: by Bruce Bickel, Stan Jantz

Bruce

Bickel and Stan Jantz are known and loved for their clear, understandable, and encouraging approach to Christian living. Now, they share the basic principles and doctrines of the faith in Listening to God. This discipleship devotional addresses seven major themes—God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, Christian living, the world, the church—providing a brief but thoughtful reading for every day of the year. Written as if God Himself is speaking to the reader, *Listening to God* encourages both solid doctrine and life-transforming application.