

DECEIVING YOUR OWN SELVES – *Jam 1:22*

Christian Fellowship Wellsford --18/6/06 – ekb

Reading: *Jam 1:22-25*

Many of us have heard a lot of the Word of God, and we know what it says. We have perhaps heard it all our lives from our youngest years. Maybe we have become over familiar with it, so that its impact on our lives has been weakened.

But God says in *Jam 1:22*, “**If you have heard My Word and are not doing what it says, you run the risk of entering into deception or you have already entered into deception**, thinking you are OK when you are in deep trouble.” *Rev 3:1-3, Rev 3:17, Lk 12:13-21*.

Mat 7:21-23 speaks of people **who thought they were OK with God** when they were not. *Lk 6:46*. **Frequently pray Ps 139:23,24**. Search me O God and know my heart.....

If we know to do the good (works of God) and we are not doing them, **then for us this is sin**. *Jam 4:17*.

God is depending on us to do what He has told us to do. He will not come down and do it, if we let Him down. He is waiting for us to do it. *Ps 115:14-16, Ps 110:3, Heb 2:5-8, Ps 8:4-8, Gen 1:26-28*.

Our obedience to God, speeds up, or hastens, or causes His Second Coming. *2Pet 3:4,9,11,12, Mat 6:33, Mat 6:9,10*. (See NIV Study Bible Notes *2Pet 3:12*.) Our holy life style, godly character, *v11*, and bringing the lost to repentance, *v9*, speed up the Second Coming of the Lord.

Mat 24:14 **This Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world, as a testimony to all nations, (groups of people), and then the end will come. That is the end of this age, and the full reign and rule of the Lord Jesus Christ on this earth as it is in heaven.** *Mat 6:10*.

He has told us to do some things.

1. **Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness**, *Mat 6:33*, by sharing with others the good news of what Jesus has done for us when He died and rose again. *Mat 28:18-20, Mk 16:15, Ac 1:8, Ac 20:24, Mat 10:27, 1Tim 2:4, 1Tim 1:15, Lk 19:10, Philemon 6*.
How do we do this?
Pray for some unsaved contacts, friends and family each day to come to Jesus.
Ask for boldness, words, opportunities, compassion and the leading of the Holy Spirit.
Carry tracts which you have written, of your own testimony of God’s love and mercy and give them to people.
Follow the nudges of the Holy Spirit and speak to people. “Would you be interested to know what Jesus did for us when He died on the Cross? I have written it out.” Be Spirit led not guilt driven. Refuse to be legalistic or striving in the flesh. Move out in faith trusting God.
2. **Worship God, pray, praise, thank, intercede and read the Word**. *Jn 4:23,24, 1Tim 2:1-4, Eph 6:18, Jude 20*. Return to the Lord with your whole heart. *Jer 24:7*.
How to do this: **Set aside times** each day to read and **confess the Word**, pray in tongues, sing praises, take communion, intercede, rejoice in God; **follow the leading** of the Holy Spirit. Our worship is at the heart of our relationship with God.
3. **Forgive others** who hurt us, **release** them from condemning judgment, (not evaluative assessment), **hand the problem to God** to solve, and pray blessing on them, *Mk 11:25,26, Rom 2:1,2, Mat 7:1,2, (1Thes 5:21), 1Pet 5:7, Mat 11:28-30, Lk 6:27,28,35-37*. Bless as in *Ac 26:18* or *Col 1:9-11*. This is LOVE in action to others. (L=let go. O=overlook, V=volunteer to help, E=encourage and bless.)
4. **Help others to grow in God**. Use your God given/spiritual gifts to bless others and help them know and fulfil God’s purposes for their lives. *1Pet 4:10, Rom 12:5-8, 1Cor 12:28, Eph 4:11*. Jesus said, “Go and make disciples of all nations....” Start right where you are. Teach the children God’s Word.
5. **Reach out to the poor and needy in New Zealand and overseas**. *Mat 25:35,36*. Give your time, food, drink, clothes, shelter, and compassion to the sick, lonely, elderly and those in prison. *Is 61:1-3, Lk 4:18,9*. People have basic physical and material needs for survival, and if these are not met, they will not be able to hear our words of life and eternal salvation. As you care for people’s basic needs, share the gospel with them too. Many will turn to the Lord.