



**April 19, 2026**  
**Faith in Action - Listening & Doing**  
**James 1:19-27**  
**Pastor Greg Flagg**

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

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**Questions for Personal or Small Group Use**

**Opening**

If you had to describe your default communication style in one word — listener, talker, processor, reactor — what would it be? Why do you think you prefer this style?

**Discussion**

- James says we should be “quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.” Think of a recent moment — at home, at work, or even at church — when you were slow to listen and quick to speak. What made it hard to pause?
- In a polarized culture where quick, hot takes are rewarded, what would it actually cost you — practically and socially — to be known as someone who listens before responding?
- James connects our anger to something deeper — it “does not produce the righteousness God desires.” Where in your daily life do you notice anger masking something else, like fear, grief, or a sense of injustice?
- We can engage deeply with scripture through sermons, Bible studies, podcasts, and books — and still remain largely unchanged. What structures or habits in your life help you move from intake to action? What gets in the way?
- James warns that someone who doesn’t “keep a tight rein on their tongue” deceives their own heart — it’s not just a relational problem, it’s a theological one. What does that self-deception actually look like in everyday life?
- Our church culture can often be very verbal — we talk about our faith constantly. How might that become a substitute for living it? Have you ever experienced this tension personally?
- James puts moral purity and active compassion side by side in the same sentence. In your experience, do these tend to get separated — either into a “social justice” track or a “personal holiness” track? What does it look like to hold them together as a single calling?

**Application**

Read and review James 1 every day this week. After you read, finish this question, “One thing I will do differently today because of this text is \_\_\_\_.” Pray and plan to ask God to help you implement those changes in your daily life.

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*“But if we desire to be the living plantation of God, we must subdue our proud hearts and be humble, and labor to become like lambs, so as to suffer ourselves to be ruled and guided by our Shepherd.”*

John Calvin

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