
JAMES – Practical Christianity: Creating Change through the Power of God

Part 3

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, September 20, 2015*

James 1:19–27

My Sin Nature seeks to Minimize My Bad Behavior

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” *Matthew 7:24–27, ESV*

Don't Just Look – Do Something About It in the
Power of God

How Can I Know If My Faith Is Genuine?

Genuine Faith Produces Ongoing
Spiritual Transformation

I Need a Vision of Righteousness

“for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” *1:20, ESV*

“In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” *Isaiah 6:1–5, ESV*

Because We Minimize Bad – We Desensitize
Ourselves to What Is Good

Repeated Exposure Attacks Common Sense

What Kills My Spiritual Transformation Is Allowing Too Many Behaviors That Fall Under the Category of “Not That Bad”

Where Do I Get a Vision – Clarity of Sight of Righteousness?

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.” **1:22–25, ESV**

In The Word of God

In The Presence of God

The Deception: Verbally Agreeing to What I Hear Preached or Taught,
But My Life Does Not Change

I Need Spiritual Discipline

“Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” **1:21, ESV**

Humility Precedes Spiritual Transformation

1. I Receive with Meekness the Implanted Word

The Word Becomes the Filter of What I
Allow In and What I Keep Out

2. I Persevere in Change

“But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.” **1:25, ESV**

God Will Empower Whatever I Resolve
To Surrender To Him

When My Heart Belongs To Jesus –
Everything Else Falls Into Place

