

# #ADULTING

THE BOOK OF JAMES

## REFLECTION- Adults practice & share the Word

10/31/2025

## Passage: James 1:22-27

**James 1:22-27** | But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless. 27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

- This section continues how we should respond to the instruction of the Word that was started back in verse 18 and echoes throughout this short book.
- Be doers of the Word
  - The Bible calls us to do something about what we have read. It calls us to become more like the author. This call to obedience & transformation is not in our strength but through the power of the gospel.
  - Works DO NOT provide salvation- this is what every other religion preaches.
    - It comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (**Eph 2:8-9**)
  - Genuine faith and response to the gospel message should transform us. Our outward fruit points toward an inward transformation.
- The Bible as a mirror
  - Examination- as we look into the mirror of God's Word, we should see ourselves as we really are. Sinful people in need of a Savior.
  - Mistakes people make: we merely glance at ourselves instead of searching how to apply the Bible to our daily life. We also forget what we see and don't apply Scriptural truths to our life which causes us to fail in obedience to what the Word tells us to do.
- The perfect law/the law of liberty= the Bible
  - Why would James call the Word of God this?
  - Because when we obey it, God sets us free (**Psalm 119:45, John 8:31-34**)
- Pure religion- seen in 3 life-changing principles (all expounded throughout this book)
  - Speech (vs 26)- our words reveal what is in our heart
  - Service (vs 27a)- we are to live selflessly thinking more of others than ourselves. This is highlighted with taking care of orphans & widows but it can mean anyone.
  - Separation from the world (vs 27b)- we are to be holy & set apart to serve God
  - These 3 principles should motivate us to be bold and share the gospel as we are out in the world.

Begin your study time with prayer. Ask God to reveal Himself to you, help you understand what you are reading, and transform you with His Word (Ps 119:18).

1. Read James 1:22-27 in multiple translations (NASB, ESV & Amplified are all great options- you can easily compare in the Bible app or on [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)). Let the Scripture wash over you. Pick out words/phrases that stand out. If you don't know the meaning of any words, look them up.
2. What does it look like to be a "doer of the Word" and not a "hearer only"? What are some practical steps so you can be more of a "doer" of the Word?
3. In what ways is God's Word a mirror? In what ways does a person who is only a hearer deceive themselves?
4. Read Matthew 11:28-30. How does the gospel enable us to obey? How can we find rest in obedience?
5. Read Romans 5:19, 6:11-23; Galatians 3:23-4:7, 5:13-14. What does obedience to the Word of God bring freedom from according to these passages? Is there sin in your life that you need freedom from? Pray about that today.
6. What is pure religion? Why must Christians be separated from or unstained by the world? Does your life reflect the world or the Word (read 1 John which reveals Christian living)?