



Practical Faith

A Study in the Book of James





Our Response to God's Word

James 1:19-27





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[19] Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; [20] for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. [21] Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.





James 1:19-27

[22] But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. [23] 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. [24] For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. [25] 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.





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[26] If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. [27] Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.





Important Context

Of his own will **he brought us forth by the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

(James 1:18 ESV)





What does James mean when he refers to being “brought forth by the word of truth?”





Important Context

[22] Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, [23] **since you have been born again**, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, **through the living and abiding word of God**; [24] for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, [25] but the word of the Lord remains forever.” **And this word is the good news that was preached to you.** (1 Peter 1:22–25 ESV)





*What is the intended result of
being “brought forth by the word of
truth?”*





Important Context

Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, **that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.**

(James 1:18 ESV)





What does James mean by “firstfruits of his creatures?” What is God trying to produce?





Important Context

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Important Context

[10] “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, [11] **so shall my word be** that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but **it shall accomplish that which I purpose**, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10–11 ESV)





What is the “purpose” for which God sends out His word?





Important Context

[12] “For you shall go out in **joy** and be led forth in **peace**; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into **singing**, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. [13] Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.” (Isaiah 55:12–13 ESV)





Important Context

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- Planted as windbreak
- Wood used in building 1st temple
- Symbolizes strength, resilience, and eternal life



- Revered for its fragrance & beauty
- Used in Feast of Booths as to cover huts
- Symbolizes peace & divine blessing





What is the significance of this imagery? What does it say about the nature of God's Word?





*What are some examples of “thorns”
and “briars” in our life, that need to
be transformed?*





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*Why are these important values in
God's Kingdom?*





God's Wisdom

When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent. (Proverbs 10:19 ESV)

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverbs 15:1 ESV)





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“Therefore...?”

*What does verse 21 have to do with
verses 19-20?*





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Light Bulb...

[18] ... He **brought us forth by the word of truth**... [19] Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; [20] for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. [21] Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and **receive with meekness the implanted word**...

So, there must be a direct connection between how I use my words and how I receive God's Word...

What is that connection?





James 1:22-25

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*Is it wrong to hear the word?
Why or why not?*





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What is the “perfect law,” or “law of liberty?”





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*What is the distinguishing factor
that separates these two people?*





*What are the contrasting results
between these two people?*





James 1:22-25

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James 1:26-27

[26] If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. [27] Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.





What does it mean to have “true religion?” How do we know if our “religion” is worthless?





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Why is “bridling the tongue” an expression of worthy religion?





*Does “true religion” really boil down
to what we say or don’t say?*





Matthew 12:33-37

[33] “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. [34] You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? **For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.** [35] The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. [36] I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, [37] for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”





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Do we really have to visit orphans & widows to have pure & undefiled religion? Why or why not?



■ ■ ■ Represent God's Heart

[16] Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, [17] learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; **bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.**

(Isaiah 1:16–17)





Represent God's Heart

[4] Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him! [5] Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

(Psalm 68:4–5)





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*What does it mean to keep oneself
unstained from the world?*





Practical Summary

Transformation does not happen on accident; it requires intentional, repeated, small steps.





Practical Steps

1. **Don't stop short** in learning God's Word: *ask "so what?" What should I feel, think, or do differently as a result of this passage?*
2. When you feel angry, **pray** before you **say** anything.
3. Seek to understand **before** you seek to correct.





Practical Steps

4. Take inventory of your words each day:
how did I use my words to build up and how did I use them to tear down?
5. Take inventory of your deeds each day:
did I serve anyone with my money, time, or energy (who could not repay me)?





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