

3 TESTS OF REAL FAITH

JAMES 1:26-27

- **Writing to a community that is struggling with the Gap Between What They Believe... And How They Live.**

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- Does your Faith have Legs?

James 1:26-27

“If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

1. The Problem with the Tongue = The Gossip Culture

- If your words are Tearing Down the very people God is trying to Build Up, your "Spiritual" Status doesn't mean anything.

- The First Test of Real Faith isn't how loud you can pray; it's what comes out of your mouth when you're Not trying to be Holy.

- Real Faith is the Power to Pause.

2. The Problem with Compassion = The Cliché Culture.

"Pure and undefiled religion...is to visit orphans and widows in their trouble." James 1:27

- God is looking for People who will go where the Mess Is.

- Visit = To take responsibility for

- Real Faith = Realizing That You Might Be The Answer to Someone Else's Prayer

3. The Problem with Worldliness = The Compromise Culture

“...and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” James 1:27b

- James is not Attacking their Salvation; he is Attacking their Complacency

- Real Faith Remains "Unspotted"

- Your Holiness (Living The Life Of God) Is Your Greatest Witness

Conclusion:

- God did not give us these instructions to Crush Us. He gave them to Position Us for Blessing.

Conclusion:

- God isn't looking for Perfect People; He's looking for Yielded People

Conclusion:

- He wants to move you from a Faith that Just "Listens" to a Faith That "Lives"