

# James

## Lesson 2

### James 1:19-27

## Participant Guide

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## Lesson 2

### James 1:19-27

### Genuine Faith

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves.  
Do what it says. *James 1:22*

#### Prayers

#### Read James 1:19-27, Listening and Doing

<sup>Jas 1:19</sup> My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>Jas 1:20</sup> for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

<sup>Jas 1:21</sup> 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.

<sup>Jas 1:22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

<sup>Jas 1:23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>Jas 1:24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

<sup>Jas 1:25</sup> But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

<sup>Jas 1:26</sup> If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

<sup>Jas 1:27</sup> 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.

1. Words have tremendous power to build up or destroy. Once spoken, they are not easily taken back. Research indicates it takes ten nurturing comments to undo the damage of one critical comment. What practical advice does James give us concerning our speech? Why is this advice so hard to follow!?
  - a. Verse 19 –
  - b. Sometimes our first impressions are entirely wrong, so listening is better than speaking or judging. What are some other situations where you have learned it is better to listen before speaking?

2. James makes a profound statement in verse 20, “for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.” The word James uses for anger is “orge” which implies smoldering anger or resentment rather than explosive anger (also not helpful).
  - a. What is the common result of anger or smoldering resentment?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What are some situations where you find it difficult to maintain your composure?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Is there such a thing as righteous anger? Can you think of any examples?
  
3. The book of James is best known for the statement: faith without deeds is dead. In verses 20-25, James illustrates a faith that is alive. What are some of the examples James gives that demonstrate a faith of worth?
  - a. Verse 21 (1) –
  - b. Verse 21 (2) -
  - c. Verse 22 -
  - d. Verse 25
  - e. Verse 26 –
  - f. Verse 27 (1) –
  - g. Verse 27 (2) –
  
4. James stresses the word as the source of instruction for your faith. What do the scriptures impart?

5. Verse 21. James warns us to be rid of all “rhyparia,” a Greek word for pollution or filth, so we do not deceive in our faith. Paul is equally pointed when he says there are sins so serious that can disqualify us from eternal life; “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21).

Discuss; Are there sins that indicate a person is not a Christian and have no spiritual inheritance in Christ despite making a Christian profession of faith and baptism?

6. James was writing during a time of trials. Needs were unmet, and issues needed addressing, so James said to do what the word says. What issues could you influence or respond to if he were writing specifically to you?

7. What is the self-deception James refers to in verse 22?

8. Describe in your own words the meaning of the analogy of the mirror.

9. Verse 27. James tells us to keep ourselves from being polluted by the world. What are some of the big snares of the world you confront?

10. Discuss Luther's dilemma with James – James stressed obeying God's law and not sinning. Luther emphasized relying on God's grace alone for salvation. Are these opposing views or facets of the same faith?

### **Closing Prayer and Blessing**