

James 1:21-27 – Living Right in our Actions!

Scriptures:

Colossians 3:8 - But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Psalm 119:11 - Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

Psalm 119:9 - How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow

659 – put away, stop
Col. 3:8

4507 – moral impurity

4050 – abundance

~~wickedness~~, and receive with meekness the

2549 – depravity, perversion

1209 – accept

4240 – gentleness, humility

implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

1721 – “implanted adj.s.
— marked by being deeply fixed or set within something.

3056 – ‘logon’

1410 – have ability

4982 – 5590 – “soul n. — the immaterial part of a person which is the actuating cause of an individual life; the site of all the psychological faculties (such as the heart, mind, and conscience).

We don't presume to tell God what we need or want to hear. God knows better than you do what you need to hear. God will speak to us if we are open to hearing His voice meekly and humbly.

Third step: see verse 22.

gunk out. It must be done, or else nothing changes. Dealing with the sin in our lives is not fun or comfortable, but if you don't, it will not get better on its own and will probably get worse.

Second step: ‘receive with meekness the implanted word’. God's Word is the spiritual Draino your life needs to keep your drain clear. Regular reading, study, and sitting under a spiritual teacher will help keep you away from the gunk of sin, the ‘filthiness and wickedness’ that so easily tempts us in this wrong way world. It has been said, ‘This book will keep you from sin and sin will keep you from this book.’

‘with meekness’ – Pride is one of the sins that will prevent the Word of God from being implanted into a human heart. Humility is a key to hiding God's Word in your heart (Psa. 119:11). When approach this book, whether in reading, Bible Study, or sermons, we must do so with meekness and humility. That means we coming expecting God to speak us what He wants us to hear.

Notes:

‘Therefore’ – what is it there for? Trials and temptations are hard! God is using them to perfect and complete us – to make us more like Jesus. God does all the hard parts, but we are called to do something.

V19 – unwillingness to listen, a sinful tongue, and unrighteous anger are moral evils.

‘lay aside’ speaks of a conscious choice. It should be our goal to eliminate every wicked thing from our lives. ‘filthiness’ and ‘wickedness’ clog our spiritual ears to the Word of God.

‘all filthiness’ = mental, spiritual, and physical.

‘implanted word’ – the Word of God is not naturally occurring in the human heart. It must be implanted there by God. Even though the reality of the truth of God and His Word is all around us, it must be meekly received by each individual.

V19 told us to ‘be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath’ = be teachable. No one is perfect, still need to be worked on. Anyone who humbly seeks God is His Word is going to discover things in their life that God doesn't like.

I am sure some of you have had to deal with a bathroom sink or shower drain that is not draining properly. Over time, a nasty gunk collects and begins restricting the flow of the drain. The more restricted it is, the faster gunk builds up, until it stops flowing completely.

Your life is like that drain. God pours out His grace into our lives. His grace never stops flowing. There is always more than enough for us to experience the abundant life He created us to live. Sin is the gunk that builds up in our lives and hinders the flow of God's grace in and through our lives.

James gives us a three-step process to experience the fullness of God's grace in our lives. The first step is to ‘lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness.’ To experience the fullness of God's grace we must turn away from all sin.

That is not a comfortable thing to do. It is nasty and disgusting to open up the shower drain and pull that

Scriptures:
Matthew 5:6 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

James 1:13 - Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

Mark 10:7-9 - 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.'

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,

4163 - obeyer

3056 – ‘logou’

202 -

deceiving yourselves.

3884 -

Word. Example: Should I divorce my wife? ([Mark 10:7-9](#))

Third, can God be glorified through your doing it? Everything that exists does so for God's glory ([1 Cor. 6:19-20](#)). If God can't be glorified, then God didn't tell you to do it. Example: if I thought God told me to do a Tik Tok showing off my best dance moves. Definitely not God's voice.

'Be doers of the word' – do what God tells you to do – through His written Word – through His faithful preachers and teachers – through the small still voice of the Holy Spirit.

James says if you are not doing what God's Word says, you are deceiving yourself. To read or listen to what God has to say about something in your life with doing what God said is the same as lying to yourself about where you stand with God. You are deceiving yourself that you are experiencing more of God's grace than you actually are.

Notes:
Third step to experiencing the fullness of God's grace in our lives is: 'Be doers of the word...'

So far in James we have heard messages about having the right attitude about the trials are in our lives or that will come. We have heard that our faith cannot be mixed with doubt if we expect God to act on our behalf. Then we learned that every temptation can be endured by faith in God and obedience to His Word. And then the last time we learned that human anger stands in the way of living right in this wrong way world.

Just listening to these messages will not make you a better Christian and will not cause you to experience the fullness of God's grace. Just sitting and hearing, or listening at home, or in your car, will not help you to live right in this wrong world. To benefit from your Bible reading, or study, or listening to sermons, you must apply what you hear.

We must learn to listen for God's voice. And when we hear it, we need to respond by doing what He says.

This is not a complicated process. First, examine your life for things you know God disapproves of. Repent of those things and replace them with right attitudes and behaviors. Second, seek God through His Word and His servant-teachers. Third, at every opportunity ask God a simple question, 'What would you have me to do now, Lord?'

At first it might not be that easy to discern the Lord's voice from your own heart or from the noise of our culture in your mind. That's where faith comes in. **Faith doesn't need facts before it acts!** I don't need to know I heard God's voice before I do something, I just have to believe I heard God's voice. I don't even have to be convinced it is God's voice – it might be God saying it, but I might be wrong.

Testing for God's voice:
First, does it lead you or someone else toward sin? If it will, stop, that is not God's voice ([Jam. 1:13](#))! If it won't, go on to test 2. Example: should I call in sick because I don't feel like going to work today? That is lying and stealing!
Second, does it agree with God's Word? If it doesn't stop! God will never lead you that contradicts His

Scriptures:

²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a ⁷ doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in

Notes:
God's Word is a mirror.

2657 – to
perceive clearly

1078 – existence
(??)

a mirror;

Scriptures:

²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and

2657 -

Notes:
If I read in God's Word or hear in a sermon that anger is sinful – I have heard the Word of truth. If then I look into my own heart and see anger I am faced with a choice. If I say, 'Oh well, that's just how I am!' then I am a hearer of the word and not a doer.

immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

1950 -

Scriptures:
2 Corinthians 3:17 - Now
the Lord is the Spirit; and
where the Spirit of the Lord
is, there is liberty.

Galatians 5:1 - Stand fast
therefore in the liberty by
which Christ has made us
free, and do not be
entangled again with a
yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:13-14 - For you,
brethren, have been called
to liberty; only do not use
liberty as an opportunity
for the flesh, but through
love serve one another.
14 For all the law is fulfilled
in one word, even in this:
"You shall love your
neighbor as yourself."

1 Peter 2:15-16 - For this is
the will of God, that by
doing good you may put to
silence the ignorance of
foolish men—16 as free,
yet not using liberty as a
cloak for vice, but as
bondservants of God.

25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty

5046 -

3551 -

1657 –
freedom
2 Cor. 3:17;
Gal. 5:1; 13; 1
Peter 2:15-16

Notes:
If I look at my anger and confess it as
sin and repent of it and do the work
of reconciliation = blessed.

Old law = condemnation for doing
wrong. 'perfect law of liberty' =
freedom to do what is right!

and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer

3887 – stays with
it

but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in

3107 - happy,
fortunate

what he does.

Scriptures:
Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.

Psalm 34:13 - Keep your tongue from evil,
And your lips from speaking deceit.

²⁶If anyone among **you** thinks he is religious, and

1380 - supposes

2357 – pious – “pious (religiously) adj. — living according to the tenets of a sect or religion; especially the entailing ethical requirements.

does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own

5468 – exercise
self-control
Psa. 34:13; Gal.
5:23

1100 - speech

538 – delude,
trick

^{heart}, this one's religion **is** useless.

2588 – inner self

3152 – futile,
worthless

Notes:
One of the tests of authentic Christianity is control over the tongue – controlling what we say. We can use the same test we applied in knowing God's voice to knowing what to say. The tongue reveals what is in the heart. If anger, fear, resentment, or bitterness is expressed in your words it is because those things are in your heart.

Religion is the outward expression of worship. It is possible to act religious but be lying to your own heart and practicing a useless religion.

Scriptures:
John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the

2513 – “pure
(guiltless) adj. —
in a state of ritual
cleanliness or free
of guilt and sin.”

283 – ritually
untainted

2356 - worship n. — the activity of showing love and devotion to a deity; also involves the necessary knowledge concerning beliefs and practice to be able to participate in worship.

Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their

1980 – to check
on, go to see
(with friendly
intent)

trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the

2347 – distress,
oppression,
tribulation

784 -
unblemished

world.

Notes:
Some people act like religion is a bad thing. Well, it is when you do it according to man's ideas and to appease the world around you. It is not when your objective is glorifying God, blessing others, and growing in faith – all in accordance with God's Word.

Pure and undefiled religion has two components.

First, **Personal Ministry**, ‘to visit orphans and widows in their trouble’. Orphans and widows were the most vulnerable people in the community. One of the foundational principles of Christianity is the concept of selflessness – putting others interests and needs before our own ([John 15:13](#)).

When God made us, it wasn't just to love Him and be loved by Him – He gave us a purpose ([Eph. 2:10](#)). Everyone is called to walk with God in a personal ministry.

Ministry: responding to the leading of the Holy Spirit to the authentic needs of others with the resources God has provided you as an expression of the love of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

One of the great adventures of the Christian faith is the journey to discover the personal ministry that God created you for. And the greatest blessings you will ever experience in this life is when you are doing it.

Second component of pure and undefiled religion – **Personal Purity**

To be ‘unspotted’ means that there are no visible imperfections. For a Christian that means that nothing of the world’s wrong ways is visible in us. For example, many Christians are getting involved in the social justice movements that are so popular right now. All of those movements have a wrong view of what justice is and so their movement is not based on truth, even when their cause may be based on at least a measure of truth. Critical Race Theory is a false religion that seeks to divide humanity into racial classes of the oppressed and the oppressors. Any Christians subscribing to the lie of CRT is allowing it to defile their religion.

This is important because personal purity will impact your personal ministry and determine the degree to which you experience the grace of God in your life which will influence how much of the grace of God others will experience through your life.

[Top of Section](#) [Top of Chapter](#)