



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

JAMES 1:19-27

LESSON: BE DOERS OF THE WORD—

July 27, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

The author of the epistle, traditionally identified as James, the brother of Jesus and a leader in the early Jerusalem church. He writes with authority and pastoral concern for the spiritual well-being of his readers.

1:16-18 James says do not err; don't be deceived; do not make the mistake of blaming God. God is the Perfect Gift Giver. He gives only good gifts. *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..."* He is the Father of lights and He is unchangeable. God is the Perfect Light that stands alone needing not to change His character. With His own Will, He brought us forth by the Word of Truth. This is an active expression of God's Will! God wills only to see us born again. He wills for us to know the Word of truth. If we ever hear the word of error, it is not of God. Run from it! It is of some other source, some error that comes to tempt man away from God and His truth. God brings sinners to Christ through His Word by the power of the Holy Spirit. Christians are the evidence of God's new creation; that is, a kind of His firstfruits of His creatures. The OT Jews brought the first fruits to the Lord as the expression of their devotion and obedience. Of all the creatures in the universe, Christians are the highest and finest. A higher birth should mean a higher life! So, feed upon His Word giving devotion to Him only. God does His part and we are to do our part!

LESSON:

I. JAMES 1:19-21

1:19 **Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:—** Well then, being of God's firstfruits, let every man, not some, but every man have these certain traits. How can a person make sure that he hears the Word of God, and will not fall into temptation? One has to do six things;

1. **He must be quick to hear the Word of God.** We have two ears, so don't talk so much, just listen. The lack of listening combined with lack of restraint in speech leads to ill-tempered action.
2. **He must be slow to speak.** If we listen carefully before we speak, then we won't get so easily angered. This shows restraint and exposes our conduct and speech in a good way.
3. **He must be slow to wrath or anger.** This means two things:
 - a. A person must not react in anger against God's Word of salvation and righteousness.
 - b. A person must not become angry and act against others in wrath for an angry person cannot do what God says.

Therefore, the method of the first two, allows the third to not escalate, but decrease, giving time for the Holy Spirit to speak, and guide the heart for a better response. This is preparation that's necessary to avoid hasty speech and unrighteous anger. We can't walk through life doing as we please. The result will be death.

1:20 **For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.** This wrath reveals a deep, internal resentment and rejection, and does not produce the righteousness of God. He fails to recognize that the mere human approach cannot change another person's heart, and such does not help the purpose of God. It causes us not to live up to the standard of God. When we are slow to wrath, we are in a better position for God's purpose to work within us; His righteousness is to work in us.





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1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness,— Then for us to have the righteousness of God working in us, we would have to:

- 4. Put aside all filthiness.** This is a picture of taking off a dirty garment and putting it aside. A person must lay off every dirty thing and lay it off to the side away from himself. If he enjoys the dirt and the filth, then his mind is going to be on it. His mind will not be clear, not enough to hear the Word of God. The Greek word for "**filthiness**" (*ruparia*) is taken from the Greek word "**rupos.**" The word is sometimes used to refer to "*wax in the ear.*" So get rid of moral uncleanness and impurity; filth and evil, so you can hear and receive the Word of God.
- 5. Put aside all that remains of superfluity of naughtiness** (overflow or excess of wickedness; malice, ill will, malignity.. The attitude of mind that desires to injure others). The idea is that even putting aside all filthiness, there will still be some naughtiness or wickedness that will show up within us. Therefore, we must be alert to these uprisings, and put them off, and lay them aside as well. James is letting us know that in order to hear and receive God's Word, lay aside, and put off those things that would cause us not to hear, and that would cause us to be tempted to go the other way.

1:21b **...and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.** Now, James gives the solution—receive with meekness the engrafted word. "**Meekness**" is being submissive and teachable to the engrafted word. The "**engrafted word**" means implanted Word. What is it supposed to do?—save your soul. This is a picture of planting seed in fertile soil. Be as a child before their father, meekly and humbly; submissive and teachable. The idea is that we must be humble, gentle, quiet, and attentive in listening to the Word of God, with an open heart ready to hear what the Father has to say. As God implants His Word within us, we hear exactly what the Father says, and we are to obey His instructions, and our soul is saved; led by the power of the Holy Spirit. The implanted Word must take root in God's people. In order for it to take root we are to humbly accept the Word by faith; welcome it with a teachable heart. There will be a change in you, for God has a way of changing us inwardly, while that implanted Word continually delivers us from the power of sin.

II. JAMES 1:22-25

1:22 **But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**

- 6. He must be a doer of the Word.** It's not enough to only hear the Word of God, we must take action and do the Word; live by the Word as it so instructs us. We may be able to quote the Word, but that does not leave us out from following the Word. There are many who sit under the Word of God week after week, and they learn, and know as much of the Word as anyone. They think that their listening, and learning makes them acceptable to God; that it makes them safe and secure. When they slip into sin, they feel that they can ask God for forgiveness, and that He will forgive them. They just feel that God would never reject them. But note something—this most critical fact: God does not accept us because we hear, and know the Word or confess our sins. Each of these are necessary, and very important, but they are not enough. God accepts us because we confess and repent. "**Repentance**" is a turning away from our sin, and turning to God. God accepts us because we (with a conscientious) turn to Him, and live for Him. When we believe God—really believe Him—then we trust, and follow Him, and do exactly what He says. There is a need for obedience. And the Spirit of the Living God helps you with that!





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1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face

In a glass— If a person does not practice doing the Word of God, it is like seeing the same reflection in the mirror, nothing changed. This comes from failing to apply the Word of God to your life.

1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he

was. If a person does not practice operating the Word of God, what he did hear or learn will soon fade away from memory; it's just forgotten, never becomes a part of the person's life! How many times has this happen where, we might hear the Word of God and are convicted of some defect, some shortcoming, some failure that we need to clean up? But as soon as we walk out from under the Word, we are distracted by the world and its affairs, and we soon forget to do what the Word tells us to do?

1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. On the other hand, the

person who hears and does the Word of God is blessed. The Word of God is called the "perfect law of liberty." This means that the Word of God will set a person free from the bondages of sin and death. The Word of God will free a person from all the temptations of this life and give him the full and victorious life for which his soul longs for. *"The perfect law of liberty"* sets a man free to know and to fellowship with God forever and ever. The only thing is that we must continue in the Word of God which is the perfect law of liberty to be free. It is there for us, we just have to continue doing what it says, not forgetting what we've heard, but doing the work we've heard. We can't help but be blessed!

III. JAMES 1:26-27

1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. The word *"religious"* describes a person who outwardly displays and

practices religious rituals without inward transformation. Like the Jews who were the first and thought they were acceptable to God because they were religious, but their religion was vain and worthless. And those that seem to be religious and do not restrain their tongue are deceived in their own hearts, and they are vain and worthless. No matter what the religious man thinks or professes to be, this tells us right here that his religion is empty. He does not please God. You can be very faithful in your religious worship, and even in service, but be loose with the tongue, you have deceived your own self, and your religion is vain and empty! Our conversation has to be right, and line up with the Word of God, and not loose.

- interrupting and dominating the conversation
- gossiping and telling tales.
- using slang and cursing.
- being easily provoked and lashing out at others.
- criticizing and murmuring.
- engaging in suggestive and off-colored talk.
- judging and condemning others.
- talking about and running down others.

No matter what a person thinks; no matter how religious he seems to be, if he does not bridle his tongue, he deceives himself. His religion is empty. For a person to withstand and conquer temptations, he must bridle his tongue.

1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction,— James says to practice pure religion:

1. Help the needy: visit the fatherless (orphans), and widows in their affliction. Whatever their need is God expects us to reach out to them. The task is not really difficult, we just have to take the



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time to do it. Some churches have teams that go out and visit with certain families that are on their lists to pray for, and help. They are making the impossible possible. Charity is apart of our helping others.

- Pure religion is undefiled religion. It does not become corrupted with false beliefs or with false religion. It holds to the purity of the gospel, the Word of God.
- Pure religion does not focus upon form and ritual and ceremony. It focuses upon the power of God to change lives eternally and it reaches out to change people's lives by visiting them.
- Pure religion does not become morally corrupt. It does not become entangled with the affairs and pleasures of this world.

1:27b ...and keep himself unspotted from the world.

2. Be set apart: no spots or stains.

- Do not become corrupted with false beliefs or with false religion. Hold on to the purity of the gospel, the Word of God.
- Do not focus upon form and ritual and ceremony. Focus upon the power of God to change lives eternally as you reach out to change people's lives by visiting them.
- Do not become morally corrupt nor become entangled with the affairs and pleasures of this world.

Pure or True religion stirs people's hearts to separate themselves from the things of this world that arouse their fleshly desires and cravings. And some believers take it too far in keeping themselves unspotted from the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life by going into legalism or cults without the Spirit of God. But maintaining spiritual integrity and moral purity inwardly is the work of the Holy Spirit who will keep us unspotted in a fallen corrupt world system!

SUMMARY:

The Christian life through testing is to follow these admonitions: Be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath will put us in right order to overcome temptations, thereby hearing God speak first. Being doers of the Word supersedes just hearers only. There is a religion that seems to be right in our own eyes, however, if we fail to bridle our tongue, it is in vain, and we deceive ourselves. There concludes a difference between religion that is useless, and that which is pure and undefiled before God (1:19-27).

APPLICATION:

It's like being OO7—committed to action by hearing and doing the Word of God. We have to make the commitment.