

James

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James 1:16-18

- **16** So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. **17** Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. **18** He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

James 1:16-18

- **God never changes – He is immutable.**
- **He has no moods, He has no bad days, He is never anything other than what He claims to be.**
- **There are no behaviors in Him that are gray or shadowy – He is totally consistent and reliable.**

James 1:16-18

- **Verse #18 - He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.**
- **And we are His ‘prized possession’! We are the only part of creation that is made in His image.**
- **The birth mentioned here is our spiritual birth. (Rom 10:17)**

James 1:19-21

- **19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. 20 Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. 21 So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.**

James 1:19-21

- **Anger – what do you think about it?**
 - **When is it destructive?**
 - **Is it ever good?**
 - <http://youtu.be/pZ7cgVQGN7s>

James 1:19-21

- **Anger is a game changer in life's relationships.**
- **You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry – easier said than done.**
- **Given this command, it would seem that all three of these are under our control.**

James 1:19-21

- **Exodus 34:6 The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, “Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.**
- **While God is slow to anger, the Psalms are full of references to the anger of God – so there must be a certain type of anger that is good. (righteous)**
- **We should be angry at sin and the actions it produces – murder, rape, abortion, injustice, etc ...**

James 1:19-21

- **When James says, “So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.” – it seems evident that these too are in our power.**
- **The really BIG things in the Christian life are all within our power to do.**
- **What God requires, He also provides for either from ourselves or from Himself.**

James 1:22-25

- **22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.**

James 1:22-25

- **If there is any danger at all in Bible study it is wrapped up in hearing, but not doing.**
- **Why is that so bad?**
- **Because it makes the church look hypocritical and makes the hearer more accountable.**

James 1:22-25

- **On the flipside, if we do obey the Word we prove we are Christians and God will bless us for our obedience.**
- **So what might the blessing of God for obedience look like?**
- **Phil 2:8 He humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.**

James 1:26-27

- **26 If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. 27 Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.**

James 1:26-27

- Here James gives two simple, but powerful examples of what it means to be a 'doer', and not just a 'hearer' of the word.
- Talk is cheap so if your religion hasn't even changed the purity of your speech, it probably is making bigger changes either.
- A simple, but opposite example – real faith cares about the vulnerable among us and responds with some action.

Questions