

"True Faith and the Word of God"

Part 7

James 1:19-27

Introduction: Today we are returning to the book of James and in so doing we are looking at the 7th and last study of verses 19-27. Today we are going to be focused upon verses 26 and 27.

In James 1:19-27 we have been looking at what James has written concerning the Word of God and the true believer. James has told us how we are to properly receive the Word. We are to desire to hear the Word, we are to reverence the Word of God, and we are to humble ourselves under the convictions of the Word of God, put off all sin and receive with meekness the Word. All of this is for the purpose of allowing the Holy Spirit to be able to use the Word of God to produce righteousness in and through our lives.

Notice James 1:19-21

He then moves on and explains that just listening to the Word is not enough but we need to be doers of the Word.

Notice James 1:22

James then gives 2 illustrations which show the contrast between the DOER and the HEARER.

Notice James 1:23-24

The unsaved person will hear the Word and may be convicted and then will walk away and push it completely out of his or her mind. In other words this person suppresses the Word of God and by that I mean they will not allow the Word of God to penetrate their lives.

Let me just say that this is very dangerous for several reasons:

1. **It will place you under the wrath of God.**

Romans 1:18

¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

2. **It will increase the level of your accountability.**

Luke 12:47-48

⁴⁷ And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

⁴⁸ But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

3. It will seal your destiny if the rapture happens.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

James 1:25

Here James describes the person who is Truly saved with 3 points about his or her life:

1. They desire to hear the Word.
2. They continue in the Word.
3. They have joy regardless of the circumstances they face.

James then moves on in the next 2 verses and he writes down words that really try the hearts of his listeners.

**I. The Acid Test
Part 2**

Now James knew there would be people who would profess to be saved but were really people who were deceived by their own hearts. They would be people who would be moral

and upright. They would be people who would go to worship God on a regular basis. They would pray, read their Bibles and even hold an office within the church.

But James also knew that all of those accolades together will not save anyone.

Cain was such a man.

Genesis 4:2-5

² *And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.*

³ *And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.*

⁴ *And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:*

⁵ *But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.*

Cain came to the place of worship, he came at the right time, he brought an offering. He believed in God but he was a lost man.

This is what James is also concerned about. That is why we find the acid test in these 2 verses at the end of the chapter. Now there are 3 testing points which James speaks of here in these 2 verses that mark a true believer.

1. True faith bridals the tongue.

Notice James 1:26

The word "religious" here refers to the "outward worship" or "outward ceremony". In other words it refers to the way a person presents themselves to the community of the church. James is addressing the person here who go through all the rituals and the ceremonies of the religious life but he does not bridal his tongue. We looked at this point last week so I do not want to too much time on this again. But let me just remind you that if your faith is real saving faith it will affect your tongue.

- 1. When we are offended.**
- 2. When we are tempted to gossip.**
- 3. When we are tempted to be divisive.**

4. When we are tempted to slander.

Let me show you some verses:

Matthew 12:34-37

³⁴ *O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*

³⁵ *A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.*

³⁶ *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*

³⁷ **For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.**

Today I want us to consider the next 2 marks of saving faith in verse 27.

2. Love and Compassion for people.**Notice James 1:27**

Let me just remind you that what we are looking at here is God's description of pure undefiled religion. That is a controlled tongue, love and compassion for the afflicted and separation from the world. These 3 points are marks of a heart that has been changed by God.

Here in this verse James makes it clear that the 2nd mark of pure religion is compassion for the fatherless and the widows who are afflicted.

But it goes beyond just compassion for James tells us that pure religion will VISIT the fatherless and the widows.

I need to point out something here that I feel is very important. This is directed to the BODY of Christ and not to the Pastor. This is something that should be seen in the lives of every person who has true saving faith. But I believe it also goes far beyond just visitation to those who are afflicted.

a. This is an unconditional love.

The love that James speaks of here is a love that is shown to people in need and not just to people we like.

b. This is a sacrificial love.

I want you to see a picture of what this kind of love and compassion looks like and the fact that love and compassion for the afflicted is a mark of TRUCE saving faith.

Notice Matthew 25:31-45

Here we see that the sheep were marked by the compassion they had for those who were afflicted.

But there is more to this than what we see on the surface.

Notice Matthew 24:9-10

3. To be separated from the world.

Notice James 1:27 again.

This is an uncompromised application of *God's Word* to our lives.

Conclusion:

How does your faith measure up to this test?

You will not be perfect but you will desire to:

- ✓ **Control your tongue**
- ✓ **Reach out to the afflicted**
- ✓ **Be separated from the world**