

The BOOK of JAMES

WHAT VIBRANT *faith* LOOKS LIKE

Key Scriptures

James 1:19-27

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. 21 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.

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 27 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.

God's Word

In a scattered generation, we have to determine if the world or the Word will be the basis for how we live our lives. When we have an attitude that gratefully receives, humbly accepts, and intently embraces the truth of God's Word, we will be blessed!

Think about it.

There is often a disconnect between what people say they believe and what they do. In this sermon, Pastor Ta gave us insight on the importance of the Bible and how a vibrant faith applies the Word.

1. Distinguish and discuss the powerful insights and rebuke found in verses 22-25.
2. What is the connection between the heart and the mouth in verse 26? Read Luke 6:45.
3. Why is the Bible considered food for our spirit? Read John 6:60-68.

Share your insight.

1. What does it look like to "love God's Word"? How do you incorporate God's Word into your daily life?
2. Think about a time when a truth in God's Word felt confrontational to you. When you accepted that truth and applied it to your life, what changed? How did you feel about the change?
3. At the end of the message, Pastor Ta talked about the importance of embracing God's emphasis on both justice (advocating for anyone who is oppressed) and righteousness (living pure, upright lives) as believers. Do you tend to focus more on righteousness or justice in your own walk with God? What does it look like to practically pursue both?
4. How can you as a DGroup express and exercise helping people in need on a regular basis? Discuss some ways you can do this together and individually.

Pray for one another.

- Pray that you will hunger and thirst after God's Word. If you do not have a habit of reading God's Word, make a practical decision to start today.
- Pray for opportunities to serve God in practical ways this regularly.
- Pray this corporately:
Jesus, we ask for a renewed hunger for Your Word. We are so grateful for what You have done for us, and we ask You to help us accept what the Bible says with humility and let the direction of our lives be determined by the truth of Your Word.