

James 1:19-27

FAITH OBEYS THE WORD OF GOD

1:1-12 – Faith will be tested

1:13-18 – Faith overcomes temptations

1:19-27 – Faith obeys the Word of God

If I were to ask what the marks of mature faith are, what would you say?

1. FAITH IS A MANIFESTATION OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD (19-20)

Marks of a mature faith

- Quick to hear: Unwilling to listen = we are controlled by our old nature
- Slow to speak: Speaking before we listen comes from our old nature
- Slow to wrath: Uncontrolled anger is a comes out of our old nature
- Conclusion: (Self-righteous) anger doesn't produce God's righteousness
- James wrote to people who knew nothing of God's righteousness

The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God

- Some Christians believe their anger is justified because it is righteous
- Pharisees believed their anger was justified & would use it to produce the righteousness of God
- Legalists possess a self-righteous spirit
- Legalists believe self-righteous anger will cause others to change
- Self-righteous anger = is of the flesh & can't produce the righteousness God
- **Romans 8:1-4**
 - Our flesh is at enmity with the H.S.
 - The law of the Spirit frees us from the law of sin & death (flesh)
 - Jesus did what the law could not do – condemned sin
- **God is not angry with us anymore**
 - The RIGHTEOUSNESS of the law is fulfilled by faith as we walk in the Spirit
- Self-righteous anger is of the flesh & can't produce righteousness
- The righteousness of God is received by faith & lived by faith
- 3 qualities of mature faith = listens, quick to hear, slow to anger

2. FAITH COMES FROM THE WORD OF GOD WITHIN US (21-25)

The implanted Word sanctifies our souls (21)

- When we are saved, we are born of the Spirit by the life-giving Word of God
I Peter 1:23 – *Born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.*
- The Word of God “saves souls” = Word of God w/ influence of HS sanctifies our “souls”

Sanctification is the result of obedience to the Word of God (22-24)

- We are to “DO” the word, not just believe it (22)
- If we only hear the word and don’t “do” the word, we deceive ourselves (22)
- To hear the Word w/out doing it is hypocrisy (**read 23-24**)

The Word of God is a mirror (25)

- The perfect law of liberty is the Word of God
- We are to look into the Word and do what it says

3. PURE RELIGION (26-27)

- *Religion* = ceremonial observance
- *Religion/religious* = 7 X in NT. Refers to Jewish religion, not the Christian faith
- *James...to the 12 tribes which are scattered abroad*
- 2 characteristics of PURE RELIGION
 - *visit the orphans & widows in their trouble*
 - *keep oneself unspotted (unblemished) from the world.*

QUESTIONS:

1. What did you learn about religion?
2. What do you think the difference is between religion & faith?
Religion is a work. Faith is a gift
3. Think about this: How do you do in the mirror?
4. What would happen if we all looked into the perfect law of liberty & decided to continue in it?
5. Does anyone want to say anything about listening & speaking