



The Book of James: Chapter 1:19-27

- **PRAYER:** Father, reveal the depth and understanding of Your Word to us tonight!

New Living Translation (NLT)	English Standard Version (ESV)	Passion Translation (PAS)
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 1:19-27 NLT-SE)</p>	<p>¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.</p> <p>²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.</p> <p>²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:19-27 ESV)</p>	<p>¹⁹ My dearest brothers and sisters, take this to heart: Be quick to listen, but slow to speak. And be slow to become angry, ²⁰ for human anger is never a legitimate tool to promote God's righteous purpose. ²¹ So this is why we abandon everything morally impure and all forms of wicked conduct. Instead, with sensitive spirits we absorb God's Word, which has been implanted within our nature, for the Word of Life has power to continually deliver us.</p> <p>²² Don't just listen to the Word of Truth and not respond to it, for that is the essence of self-deception. So always let his Word become like poetry written and fulfilled by your life! ²³ If you listen to the Word and don't live out the message you hear, you become like the person who looks in the mirror of the Word to discover the reflection of his face in the beginning. ²⁴ You perceive how God sees you in the mirror of the Word, but then you go out and forget your divine origin. ²⁵ But those who set their gaze deeply into the perfecting law of liberty are fascinated by and respond to the truth they hear and are strengthened by it—they experience God's blessing in all that they do!</p> <p>²⁶ If someone believes they have a relationship with God but fails to guard his words then his heart is drifting away and his religion is shallow and empty.</p> <p>²⁷ True spirituality that is pure in the eyes of our Father God is to make a difference in the lives of the orphans, and widows in their troubles, and to refuse to be corrupted by the world's values. (James 1:19-27 PAS)</p>

– **KEY WORDS:**

• **Anger**

- S G3709 **orge** 36x (verses 19, 20)
- pr. mental bent, impulse; anger, indignation, wrath, Eph. 4:31; Col. 3:8; indignantly, Mk. 3:5; vengeance, punishment, Mt. 3:7; Lk. 3:7; 21:23; Rom. 13:4, 5 → anger; wrath.

• **Righteousness**

- S G1343 **dikaioyne** 92x (verse 20)
- fair and equitable dealing, justice, Acts 17:31; Heb. 11:33; Rom. 9:28; integrity, virtue, Lk. 1:75; Eph. 5:9; in NT generosity, alms, 2 Cor. 9:10, v.r.; Mt. 6:1; piety, godliness, Rom. 6:13; investiture with the attribute of righteousness, acceptance as righteous, justification, Rom. 4:11; 10:4, et al. freq.; a provision or mean for justification, Rom. 1:17; 2 Cor. 3:9; an instance of justification, 2 Cor. 5:21 ~ innocence; justice; justification; righteous, righteousness.

• **Wickedness**

- S G2549 **kakia** 11x (verse 21)
- malice, malignity, Rom. 1:29; Eph. 4:31; wickedness, depravity, Acts 8:22; 1 Cor. 5:8; in NT evil, trouble, calamity, misfortune, Mt. 6:34 ~ evil; malice; wicked, wickedness.

• **Meekness**

- S G4240 **prauteos** 11x (verse 21)
- meekness, mildness, forbearance, 1 Pet. 3:15; gentleness, kindness, Jas. 1:21; 3:13; Gal. 5:23 → gentleness; humility

• **Deceiving**

- S G3884 **paralogizomai** 2x (verse 22)
- to misreckon, make a false reckoning; to impose upon, deceive, delude, circumvent, Col. 2:4; Jas. 1:22*

• **Perseveres**

- S G3887 **parameno** 4x (verse 25)
- to stay beside; to continue, stay, abide, 1 Cor. 16:6; Heb. 7:23; met. to remain constant in, persevere in, Phil. 1:25; Jas. 1:25*

• **Bridle**

- S G5468 **chalinagogo** 2x (verse 26)
- pr. to guide with a bridle; met. to bridle, control, sway, Jas. 1:26; 3:2*

• **Worthless**

- S G3152 **mataios** 6x (verse 26)
- idle, ineffective, worthless, 1 Cor. 3:20; groundless, deceptive, fallacious, 1 Cor. 15:17; useless, fruitless, unprofitable, Tit. 3:9; Jas. 1:26; from the Hebrew, erroneous in principle, corrupt, perverted, 1 Pet. 1:18; superstition, idolatry, Acts 14:15*

• **Unstained**

- S G784 **aspilos** 4x (verse 27)
- spotless, unblemished, pure, 1 Tim. 6:14; Jas. 1:27; 1 Pet. 1:19; 2 Pet. 3:14*

– **SELF-DECEPTION...**

Above all, don't lie to yourself. The man who lies to himself and listens to his own lie comes to a point that he cannot distinguish the truth within him, or around him, and so loses all respect for himself and for others. And having no respect he ceases to love.

~ *Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov*

It is self-love and its offspring self-deception, which shut the gates of heaven, and lead men, as if in a delicious dream, to hell.

~ *Christian Scriver*

The greatest deception men suffer is from their own opinions ~ *Leonardo da Vinci*

The Good News means we can stop lying to ourselves. The sweet sound of amazing grace saves us from the necessity of self-deception, It keeps us from denying that though Christ was victorious, the battle with lust, greed and pride still rages within us. ~
Brennan Manning

– **PERSONAL APPLICATION:**

- Using very practical words, what does it mean to **you** to “guard my tongue” and what do you think might be the connection James is making between “slow to speak” and “slow to anger?”
- What is “the implanted word?” How do you know when the word (logos) really gets implanted in your life and how does that same word “save your soul(s)?”
- James 1:22-25 describes how we can be self-deceived by resting in what we “hear” in the word, yet refuse to put it into action in any tangible way. What are some of the keys to us breaking that deception and actually DOING what the implanted word has called us to do?
- Verses 26 and 27 seem to imply that our own unbridled tongue is what might be causing some of the deception in our lives. James goes on to describe what “religion that is pure and undefiled” looks like. Give a couple more examples and reasons why you believe these examples are “pure and undefiled.”