

James 1:19-27 New Living Translation

Listening and Doing

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^[a] does not produce the righteousness^[b] 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.

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.

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.

Footnotes

a 1:20a Greek *A man's anger*.

b 1:20b Or *the justice*.

Questions:

1. How is being quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry related? Explain

How can you practice this?

2. What power does God's word planted in your heart have?
3. James says, "If you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free..."

Explain how God's perfect law can set you free?

4. What does pure and genuine religion look like?
5. From reading this passage do you think that God's word planted in your heart can actually change you? Explain