

THE BOOK OF JAMES

FAITH IN THE FLESH



WEEK 4 | FAITH LIVES OUT GOD'S WORD

DISCOVER: Before and while you read these passages ask the Spirit of God to illuminate your heart and mind and bring conviction and clarity of his truth for your life. **Study** the text and take some time during your own personal study to **ask** these four key questions:

1. Who is God (what does this passage tell me about God's character)?
2. What Has God Done (how do I see God's character in action here)?
3. Who Am I (how does God's character and action shape how I see myself)?
4. What Do I Do (if I believe 1-3 how would I respond and relate to others)?

Scripture: James 1: 19-27

NURTURE: Confess out loud to one another areas of personal struggle or unbelief that the Spirit revealed during your personal study. Let the Spirit lead you to **repentance** and **belief** in the gospel as you work through this passage.

1. Verse 19 gives us three commands: "Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger." How are these commands related?
2. What is the connection between verse 21 and our anger?

3. What do you think it means to “receive with meekness the implanted word”? Why is it so important to be humble as you listen to God’s Word? What are the potential consequences if you are not?
4. What does the phrase, “the perfect law, the law of liberty,” tell us about God’s law and true freedom? How does this perspective differ from the way people often conceive of God’s law and genuine freedom?
5. What do you do to ensure that you are not just a person who hears God’s Word, but one who does what it says?

Take some time to ask the Spirit where you need to **repent and **believe** the truth of God revealed to us in Jesus. The call to repent may look like turning away (**repent**) from deceitful lies or filthy and wicked sources that are choking out the fruit of the gospel in your life. In meekness, ask the Spirit to reveal where you are not receiving God’s word and acting in obedience to it. **Believing** the truth of who God is and what he has done for us in Jesus leads us to freedom from anger, corrupt speech and polluted hearts, and leads us to joyful obedience. *Hear and Receive* the implanted word—knowing that God is for us; he has given us son; he will graciously give us all things related to godliness; and nothing can separate us from his love for us in Christ! (Romans 8:31-35).**

ACT: In light of your time together, what steps will you take to act on your new discoveries and affirmed beliefs? **Listen** and **obey** the Spirit as he calls us to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. Consider these questions:

1. In what relationship or situation do you want to become slow to speak, quick to listen and slow to become angry?
2. When you consider the doing of acceptable “religion” (doing good news work) which one do you most need God to change you in: a) Controlling your Tongue; b) Caring for the helpless; c) Personal purity and holiness? Take time to pray for each other in the area of most need.

What will you DO and who will you TELL about what God has done?