

# JAMES

GENUINE FAITH ON DISPLAY

GENUINE FAITH RECEIVES THE WORD PT. 3:  
**RECEIVE THE WORD RELIGIOUSLY**  
JAMES 1:26-27

# OUTLINE OF JAMES

Section	James	Marks of Genuine Faith
	1:1	Greeting
1	1:2-18	Genuine Faith Considers Trials as Joy
2	1:19-27	<b>Genuine Faith Receives the Word</b>
3	2:1-13	Genuine Faith Loves without Favoritism
4	2:14-26	Genuine Faith Produces Good Works
5	3:1-12	Genuine Faith is Shown in Your Speech
6	3:13-18	Genuine Faith Exhibits a Humble Wisdom
7	4:1-10	Genuine Faith Seeks God's Grace
8	4:11-12	Genuine Faith Recognizes One Judge
9	4:13-17	Genuine Faith Understands Dependence on God
10	5:1-11	Genuine Faith is Patient in God's Timing
11	5:12	Genuine Faith Speaks Truth
12	5:13-18	Genuine Faith Prays Powerfully
13	5:19-20	Genuine Faith Calls Others to Genuine Faith

# JAMES 1:19-25

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<sup>19</sup>This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup>Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. <sup>25</sup>But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

# SECTION 2 OUTLINE

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## Genuine Faith Receives the Word (verses 19-27)

1. Receive the Word Eagerly (19-20)
2. Receive the Word Purely (21a)
3. Receive the Word Humbly (21b)
4. Receive the Word Actively (22-25)
5. Receive the Word Religiously (26-27)

# What is religion?

**Religious:** The only usage in the New Testament is in this verse.

**Religion:** found two other times in the New Testament:

- **Acts 26:5** - Paul states in his testimony before King Agrippa, “I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.”
- **Colossians 2:18** - Paul warned against sinful practice of the worship or religion of angels.



## JAMES 1:26-27

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<sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.



# What is religion?

**Religion** in this context refers to the externals or outward practices of worship

- **Includes:** attending church, practicing communion, baptism, serving in the church, giving offering, and saying prayers
- These things aren't bad!
- The problem is not religion, the problem is a religion devoid of true Christian character.

# THREE VIRTUES OF A TRUE BELIEVER

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- A. A True Believer **Controls the Tongue** (v.26)
- B. A True Believer **Cares for the Distressed** (v.27a)
- C. A True Believer **Conducts Himself in Holiness** (v.27b)



“[James] does not define generally what religion is, but reminds us that religion without the things he mentions is nothing.” — John Calvin



## A. A TRUE BELIEVER CONTROLS HIS TONGUE v.26

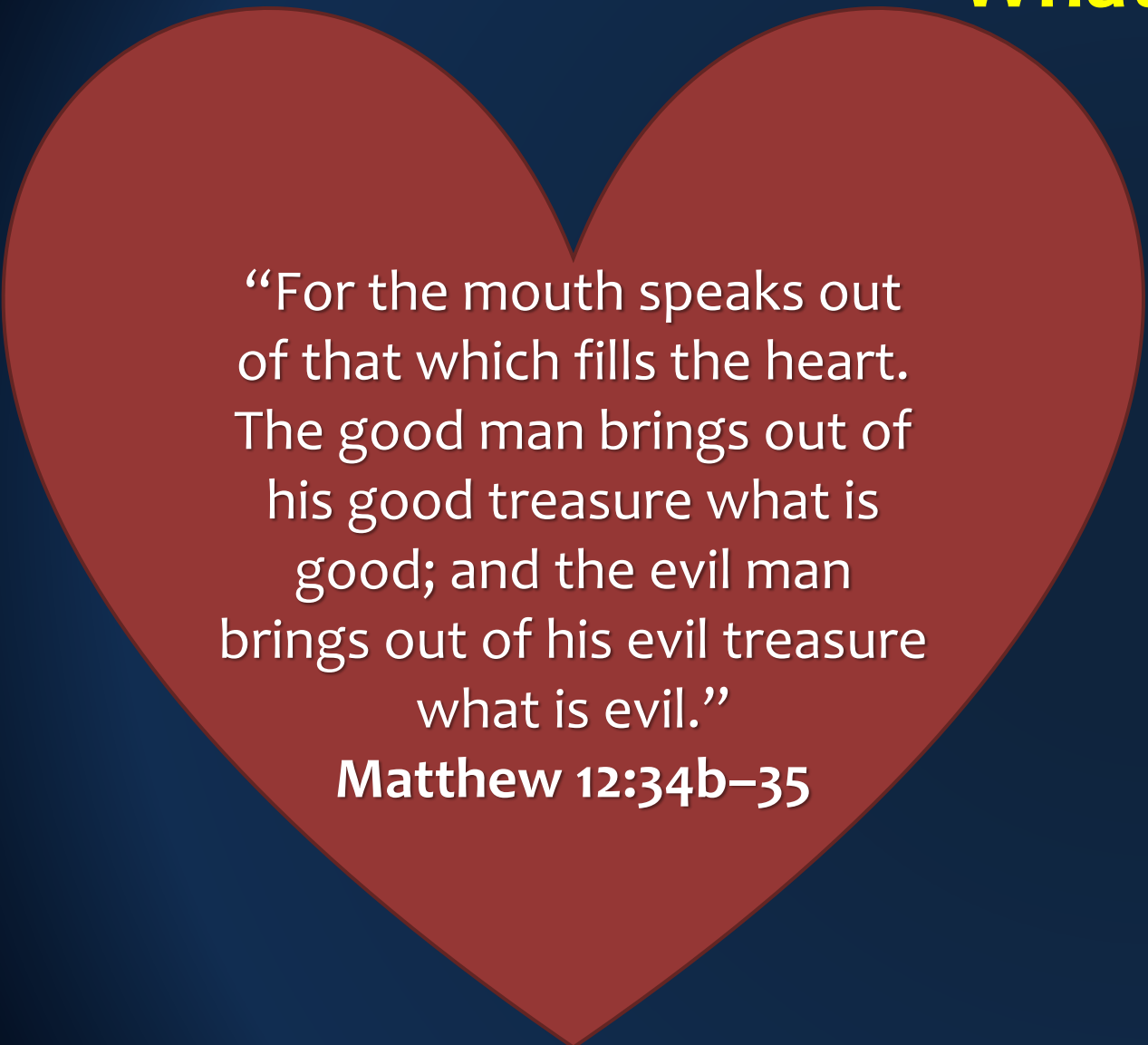
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If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.



- **Psalm 39:1** - I said, "I will guard my ways That I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle While the wicked are in my presence."
- **Psalm 141:3** - Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips.
- **Psalm 34:13** - Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

# What comes out of your mouth?



“For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.”

**Matthew 12:34b–35**

- **Complaining?** (Philippians 2:14-16)
- **Boasting?** (Proverbs 27:2)
- **Gossiping?** (Proverbs 11:13; 16:28)
- **Judging / Criticizing?** (Matthew 7:1-5; Colossians 4:6)
- **Slandering?** (Ephesians 4:29 )

## James 1:26

If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.

**Deceive:** to lead one to have a faulty evaluation of something

## B. A TRUE BELIEVER CARES FOR THE DISTRESSED v.27A

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Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress. . .

- **Pure** – that which is intrinsically free from moral pollution or corruption
- **Undefiled** – that which has not been stained in any way by moral evil
- **Visit** – to care for, to visit in order to help

## God has a special care for the orphan and the widow.

- **Deuteronomy 10:18** - He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing.
- **Psalms 68:5** - A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation.

## Those who are God's people are to care for the orphan and widow.

- **Isaiah 1:17** - Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.

## Wicked leaders are judged for their failure to care for the orphan and widow.

- **Ezekiel 22:7** - "They have treated father and mother lightly within you. The alien they have oppressed in your midst; the fatherless and the widow they have wronged in you."



## C. A TRUE BELIEVER CONDUCTS HIMSELF IN HOLINESS v.27B

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... and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

- **Keep oneself** – to watch over, to guard (as in guarding a prisoner 1 Timothy 5:22)
- **Unstained** – spotless, pure, without fault
- **World** – the term *kosmos* and here as is does frequently in Scripture refers to fallen mankind and ungodly spiritual values and philosophies

## How are we to keep ourselves unstained by the world?

- **It doesn't mean to remove yourself from contact with unbelievers**

John 17:15–16 – “I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

- **The key is to not love the world!**

**1 John 2:15–17** - <sup>15</sup>Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh** and the **lust of the eyes** and the **boastful pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world. <sup>17</sup>The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

When you and I live daily with the fear of God before our eyes, in the presence of men of the world, who care not whether there is a God or no, then are we truly manifesting “pure and undefiled religion.” When we judge all our conduct by thinking how it will appear in the sight of God; when, assailed by temptation, we say to ourselves, “How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” when we keep ourselves apart from every evil thing that might fascinate and entice us, saying, “So did not I, because of the fear of God,” this is true worship, quite as real worship as the hymns we sing and the prayers we offer.

- Charles Spurgeon



# APPLICATION

Ask yourself these questions:

- **Is my tongue under control?**
- **Am I seeking to meet the needs of others?**
- **Do I live as “in” the world but not “of” it?**