

Use this daily Transformation Journal to learn how to study the Bible for yourself. Pray before you begin and ask God to bless you with insight and discernment as you ponder and respond to the questions, which are tools for your spiritual growth.

Settings

James 1:17-27



faithbook



James 1:17-27 NIV

¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created. ¹⁹My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. ²¹Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. ²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does. ²⁶If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Sermon Notes

Monday, September 7

James begins his letter in the same way most Greek letters began--by naming the sender and the recipient and then by offering a greeting. The letter was written between AD 40-50. The letter was intended to be circulated among Christians living in the Roman Empire.

James 1:1-11

How do you handle the tough times of life?

How has God helped you to grow through difficult times?

Tuesday, September 8

James continues to talk about the trials and temptations in life. He is opposed to the view that says God puts people into situations to tempt them (a common view of that time period). He says the temptations arise from life itself.

James 1:12-18

What temptations have you had recently?

What does James say God is doing for us in verse 17?

Wednesday, September 9

James begins to discuss the second and third parts of the book: speech and generosity.

James 1:19-27

What three behaviors does James command in verse 19?

In what ways are we to respond to this challenge (verses 20 and 21)?

Thursday, September 10

During Nero's reign as emperor of Rome, the church (made up of both Jewish and Gentile believers) was considered a threat because its beliefs and values conflicted with those of Rome. The resulting persecution brought great pain to the church. In the midst of this situation Peter calls the church to "live such good lives among others that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God."

1 Peter 1:-2:12

In Peter 1:13-23, Peter described the actions that define holiness. What are they?

What is one way that you could demonstrate these actions in your life?

Friday, September 11

John extends an invitation to fellowship with God through God's Son, Jesus Christ. To have this relationship on an ongoing basis, Jesus' followers must walk in the light.

1 John 1:1-2:14

According to 1 John 2:3-11, what characterizes the person who walks in the light?

An old bumper sticker reads, "Christians aren't perfect...just forgiven." How does confirmation of this in 1 John 1:8-2:6 encourage you?

Saturday, September 12

James, one of the leaders of the Jerusalem church, knew that living out faith in Jesus would bring changes personally and corporately. For centuries, followers of Jesus have wrestled with outward persecution as well as their inward response to the lifestyle and attitude changes needed to act out their faith. James pointed out the need to go beyond merely hearing the word, to doing what it says.

Reread James 1 and 2

From James chapters 1 & 2, list at least three things we are to do as we go beyond hearing the word to acting on the word.

Based on James 1:27, how are you measuring up in practicing "pure and faultless religion"? What could you do better?

In James 1:13-23, Peter described the actions that define holiness. What are they?